SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

THE POWER OF NEGATIVE THINKING VOLUME 8

KOJI KUMETA

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SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

The Power of Negative Thinking 8

Koji Kumeta

Translated and adapted by Joshua Weeks
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

KC KODANSHA COMICS

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SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

The Power of Negative Thinking 8

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THE STORY SO FAR

Our story begins at the Nishiogikubo International Film Festival, organized solely on a whim of Leah Dizon's. While the organizers praise the festival and call it "a cinematic heaven," another group that's been organizing an anime festival is left quite unhappy. Ignoring the unrest, zetsubou-sensei grabs a megaphone and begins to direct. He falls in love with a modern girl who pretends to be a fan of Chiyo Uno. He later discovers that she was only trying to frame him. She publicly accuses him of using the word "delusional" in a misogynistic context. The women's magazine *Fujin ***ron* publishes an article demanding that he repent. They put syrup on his nipples and bury him in an anthill. Just then, Haruo Mizuno-sensei appears in an American police uniform and yells, "Cut!"

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha Comics not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics books.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/

Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Koji Kumeta

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI 8

The Power of Negative Thinking

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ITOSHIKI FAMILY TREE

CAST OF CHARACTERS 1

MAJIRU ITOSHIKI
CURRENTLY LIVING WITH
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

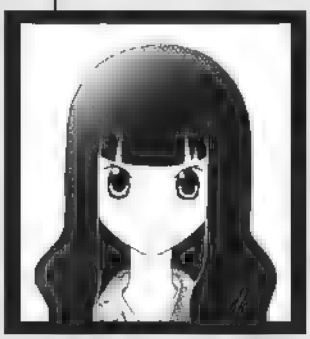
FIRST SON
ENISHI ITOSHIKI

WIFE
TAE ITOSHIKI

HEAD OF THE FAMILY
HIROSHI ITOSHIKI

FOURTH SON
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
PROFESSOR NEGATIVE

SECOND SON
KEI ITOSHIKI
SELF-CONVINCING ARTIST



FIRST DAUGHTER
RIN ITOSHIKI
ITOSHIKI-STYLE IKEBANA INSTRUCTOR

THIRD SON
MIKOTO ITOSHIKI
DOCTOR AT ITOSHIKI HOSPITAL

TOKITA
ITOSHIKI FAMILY'S BUTLER

Cast of Characters 2

Friday, April 17, 2007 Day Duty — Jun Kutou, Chiri Kitsu

MATOI TSUNETSUKI
STALKER GIRL

MERU OTONASHI
POISON-TONGUED EMAIL GIRL

NAMI HITOU
ORDINARY GIRL

TARO MARIA SEKIUTSU
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT; REFUGEE GIRL

AI KAGA
DELUSIONAL SELF-BLAMER

CHIRI KITSU
METHODICAL AND PRECISE GIRL

HARUMI FUJIYOSHI
EAR FETISHIST GIRL; ADDICTED TO MALE-ON-MALE MATCHMAKING

KIRI KOMORI
HIKIKOMORI GIRL

MAYO MITAMA
MEAN-LOOKING GIRL

KAERE KIMURA
(ALSO KAEDE)
BILINGUAL GIRL WITH SPLIT PERSONALITY

KAGEROU USUI
HEAD OF THE CLASS

KOTONON
INTERNET IDOL

ABIRU KOBUSHI
TAIL FETISH GIRL; THOUGHT TO BE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

2-F Homeroom Teacher

糸色 望 (いとしき のぞみ)

"Nozomu Itoshiki"

七月 王 (つぞむ)

Warning! Do not write these characters too close to one another!

Professor Negative

IKKYU-SAN
AN OLD FRIEND OF NOZOMU ITOSHIKI (ONE-DAY FRIEND)

One-Day Friend

KAFUKA FUURA
SUPERPOSITIVE GIRL

JUN KUTOU
A GENIUS STORYTELLER

Rival

KUNIYA KINO
VERY COMPETITIVE LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEMBER; CLASS UNKNOWN

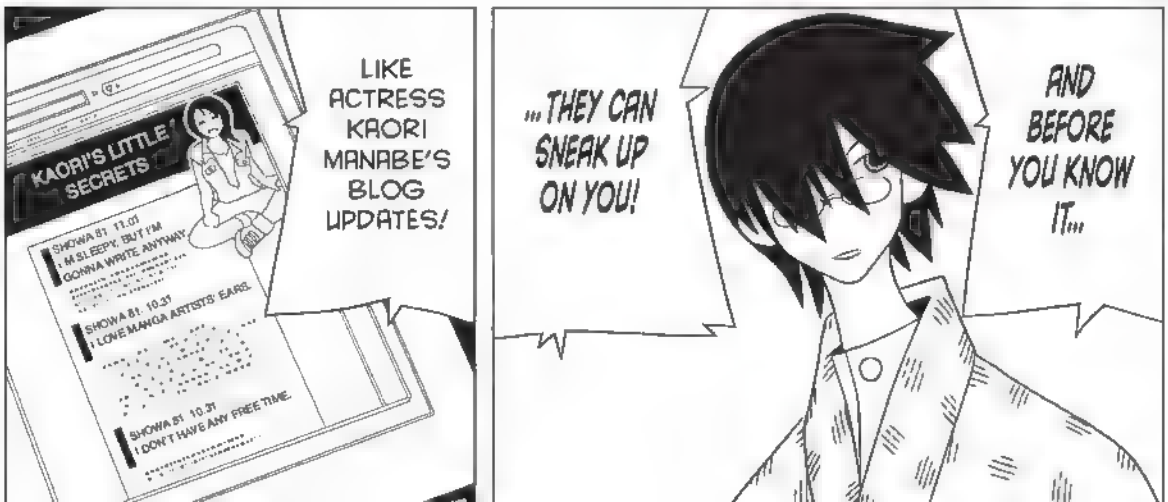
WATARU MANSEIBASHI
HARDCORE OTAKU
2-HO (CLASS NEXT DOOR)

KURAIZAWA GINKO
10000
DUTY AND
SOLDIER
10000 SEN
納税義務
10000
ZB 1104 KI
蔵井沢銀行券
壱万銭
蔵井沢銀行
絶望
10000
ZB 1104 KI

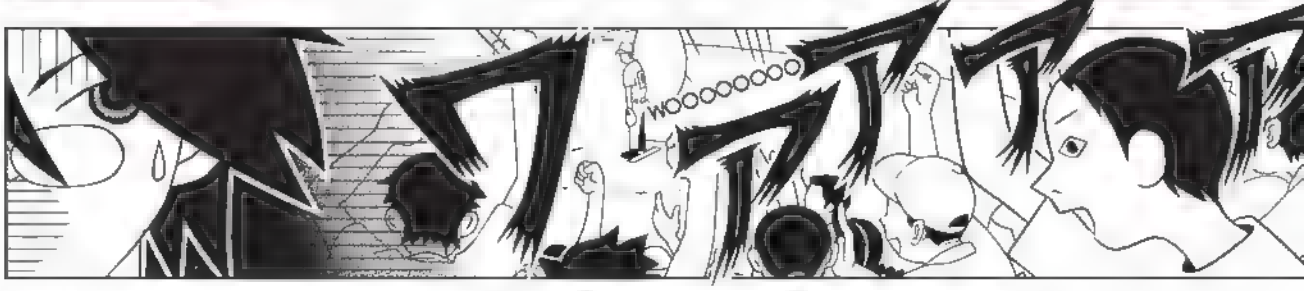
CHAPTER 71

TODAY...
ATTENDANCE LIST
WE'LL BE DOING *COMPULSORY EDUCATION.*

WE FINISHED ALL OUR COMPULSORY EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS A LONG TIME AGO.
BUT WE'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL NOW.
YOU SEE, OUR DUTIES KEEP INCREASING EVERY YEAR.
AH, BUT I'M TALKING ABOUT EDUCATING YOU ON YOUR COMPULSORY DUTIES...
THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF DUTIES!


KAORI'S LITTLE SECRETS
SHOWA 61 11.01
I'M SLEEPY. BUT I'M GONNA WRITE, ANYWAY.
SHOWA 61 10.31
I LOVE MANGA ARTISTS' EARS.
SHOWA 61 10.31
I DON'T HAVE ANY FREE TIME.
LIKE ACTRESS KAORI MANABE'S BLOG UPDATES!
...THEY CAN SNEAK UP ON YOU!
AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...

COMMENT CARD
THEY MAY HAVE STARTED OUT DOING THOSE THINGS FOR FUN, BUT THEY EVENTUALLY TURNED INTO DUTIES.
OR THE COMMENT CARDS LEFT FOR SHIRAISHI-SAN AT THE CO-OP STORE!
HMMPH
HMMPH
OR SUMO WRESTLER TAKAMIMORI'S ROBOCOP WARM-UP!
...THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CONTINUE.
WAAAHHH
IF THEY WERE TO STOP SUDDENLY, THEY WOULD GREATLY ANGER THEIR PUBLIC, AND SO...
WAAAHHH
WOOOO
STRIKE!
YOU'RE OUT!
WHAT ABOUT THE HANDKER-CHIEF?
PLUP
STRIKE! YOU'RE OUT!
WHISPER
WHERE'S THE HANDKER-CHIEF?
WHEN ARE WE GONNA SEE HIS HANDKER-CHIEF?
WHEN IS HE GONNA TAKE IT OUT?
WHISPER
WHERE'S HIS HANDKER-CHIEF?
WHISPER



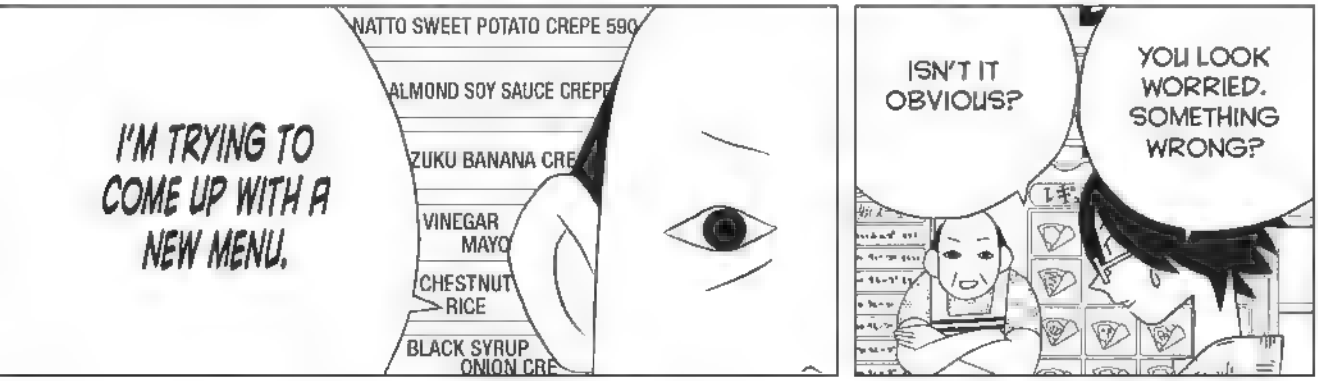
...SOCIETY WILL PUNISH YOU.
IF YOU FAIL TO PERFORM YOUR DUTIES...
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT'S YOUR DUTY?
WHY THE HELL AREN'T YOU SPREADING YOUR LEGS?
HEY, **KU HATA. WHAT ARE YOU DOING WEARING REGULAR CLOTHES ON TV?

- IDOL YUKI HOSHINO WEARING CLOTHES THAT SHOW OFF HER CLEAVAGE
- COMEDIAN SANSHI KATSURA FALLING OUT OF HIS CHAIR DURING HIS ACT
- ACTOR JUNICHI ISHIDA WEARING SHOES WITHOUT SOCKS
- ACTOR AKIRA NAKAO WEARING A NECKERCHIEF
- ACTOR UCHIDA-KUN EATING RIDICULOUS AMOUNTS OF FOOD
- THE TOKIWA SISTERS' OVER-THE-TOP CELEBRITY LIFESTYLES
- THE VENTURE'S GUITAR LICKS ♪
- IDOL YUUKORIN CANCELING PRESS CONFERENCES
- RAZOR RAMON HG'S CHARACTER HARD GAY
- THE LAST-MINUTE CANCELLATION OF TATU CONCERTS
- MUSICIAN SHOGO HAMADA WEARING JEAN JACKETS
- RESPONDING TO YOUR FRIENDS' POSTS ON MIXI
- BASEBALL TEAM RAKUTEN WINNING THIRTY-NINE GAMES
- EDUCATIONAL MAGAZINES PUBLISHED BY SHOUGAKUKAN
- FEMALE CHARACTERS WEARING SWIMSUITS IN THE OPENING PAGES OF MANGA
- SOCCER COACH IVICA OSIM WINNING THE ASIAN CUP
- PEOPLE SAYING, "NO FREAKING WAY!" IN RESPONSE TO VOICEOVER ACTRESS KIKUKO INOUE SAYING, "I'M KIKUKO INOUE AND I'M SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD."

AH.
WE NEED COMPULSORY EDUCATION!
IF WE IGNORE OUR DUTIES, THEN SOCIETY WILL PUNISH US. THAT'S WHY...
I'VE LOST ALL FAITH IN THIS SOCIETY AND ITS EVER-MULTIPLYING DUTIES.
IT'S HOPE-LESS!
...ONE OF YOUR DUTIES?
WAS DOING THAT LINE...
DON'T WORRY. THAT'S NOT YOUR DUTY.
WHO KNOWS WHAT PEOPLE WOULD SAY IF I DIDN'T DO THAT LINE.
NOBODY WOULD COMPLAIN ABOUT IT.

MANY PEOPLE SUFFER AN OVER-INFLATED SENSE OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.
THEY END UP CONVINCING THEMSELVES THAT SOMETHING IS THEIR "DUTY" EVEN THOUGH THE REST OF THE WORLD COULDN'T CARE LESS.
YOU MEAN THEY'RE SELF-IMPOSED DUTIES?
SELF-IMPOSED DUTIES?
LET'S GO OUTSIDE AND SEE WHAT EXAMPLES OF SELF-IMPOSED DUTIES WE CAN FIND.
LOOK OVER THERE.
Open
INTRODUCING NEW FALL COLORS!
HAIR SALON TAKAO COMMENT BOARD
TODAY'S COMMENT
It's been really cold lately. Our staff, including the manager, had a nabe hot pot* party last night. We had a blast! As fall approaches, the trees are changing color. Why not color your hair with a hue that matches the new season?
*With lots of veggies
OH, THAT?
SWIP
MANY OF OUR CUSTOMERS LOOK FORWARD TO OUR DAILY COMMENT.
SO I JUST CAN'T STOP DOING IT.

MIRACLE
335
CREPE
UH...
THERE'S ANOTHER EXAMPLE OVER THERE.
STING
STING
STING
BUT HE HAS CONVINCED HIMSELF OTHERWISE, AND NOW FEELS OBLIGATED TO KEEP IT UP...
NOBODY'S LOOKING FORWARD TO READING THAT COMMENT BOARD.

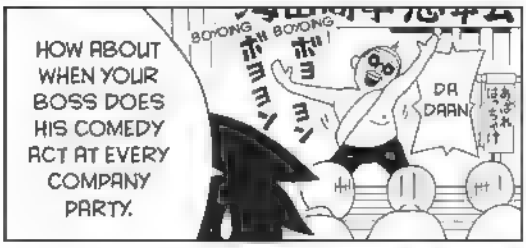

I'M TRYING TO COME UP WITH A NEW MENU.
NATTO SWEET POTATO CREPE 590
ALMOND SOY SAUCE CREPE
ZUKU BANANA CRE
VINEGAR MAYO
CHESTNUT RICE
BLACK SYRUP ONION CRE
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
YOU LOOK WORRIED. SOMETHING WRONG?

LOTS OF SHOP OWNERS ARE CONVINCED THAT IT'S THEIR DUTY TO COME UP WITH ECCENTRIC MENU ITEMS.
SO I JUST CAN'T STOP MAKING THEM.
OUR CUSTOMERS ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEW MENUS.
.....

ZUNDOKO CHOUNAI-KUN
SHOPPING ARCADE
KOSHIKAWA TOWN NEWSPAPER
IT'S LIKE THE FOUR-PANEL MANGA IN THE LOCAL PAPER THAT HARUMI'S BEEN WORKING ON.
OH, I GET IT.

SHE'S SO ATHLETIC!
AAHHH!
UH, YEAH, PEOPLE LIKE YOU...
YOU'RE RIGHT, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO NEEDLESSLY KEEP UP SELF-IMPOSED DUTIES.
SHE'S BEEN WORKING ON IT FOR SEVEN LONG YEARS.
NOBODY EVEN READS THAT MANGA, BUT SHE'S TOTALLY CONVINCED THAT IT'S HER DUTY TO KEEP IT UP.
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.
AHHH.

- ONE-LINER JOKES IN *AERA* MAGAZINE
- BOXER KOUKI KAMEDA SINGING AFTER HE WINS A FIGHT
- SOCCER PLAYER HIDE NAKATA'S CHOICE OF OUTFITS WHEN HE RETURNS TO JAPAN
- BOXER MASAYUKI OGUCHI AKA THE WIG BOXER
- NIPPON HAM FIGHTERS COACH TREY HILLMAN YELLING OUT "ONE, TWO, THREE, UNBELIEVABLE!"
- THE BAND TORA BJRYUU'S SONG "R**D" BEYOND CHAPTER THREE
- SINGER SACHIKO KOBAYASHI'S COSTUMES AT *THE RED & WHITE SINGING COMPETITION*
- JOURNALIST TARO KIMURA'S JOKES
- THE HIROSHIMA CARPS' SAITO USING A RED HANDKERCHIEF
- PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS
- SEALED PAGES IN MAGAZINES
- ONLINE RETAIL COMPANY JAPA*ET'S FREEBIES
- MOSS BURGER'S FARMER PROFILES (INCLUDING PHOTOS)
- MANUFACTURERS TRYING TO MAKE CELLPHONES SMALLER
- PRIME MINISTER KOIZUMI'S MAKING SURPRISE CHOICES WHEN PICKING HIS STAFF
- PAPER BLOGS
- SHOWING BOOTY IN MANGA TANKOBON



...THEY END UP MAKING EVERYONE FEEL LIKE IT'S THEIR DUTY TO GO ALONG WITH IT.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN A PERSON DOES SOMETHING WITH GOOD INTENTIONS, BUT...

DID YOU WATCH IT?

WASN'T IT GREAT?
HUH? OH... UM...

FWOOSH
SORRY, I HAVEN'T WATCHED IT YET!
HE REALLY WANTS ME TO AGREE.

FWISH
WAH!
DID YOU WATCH IT?
FWISH
FWISH
DID YOU WATCH IT?
EVERY TIME I SEE HIM IT'S "DID YOU WATCH IT? DID YOU WATCH IT?" IT'S TORTURE.

BY THE WAY...
OH, FUNNY MEETING YOU HERE, ITOSHIKI-SENSEI.
AH...HELLO, JINROKU-SENSEI.

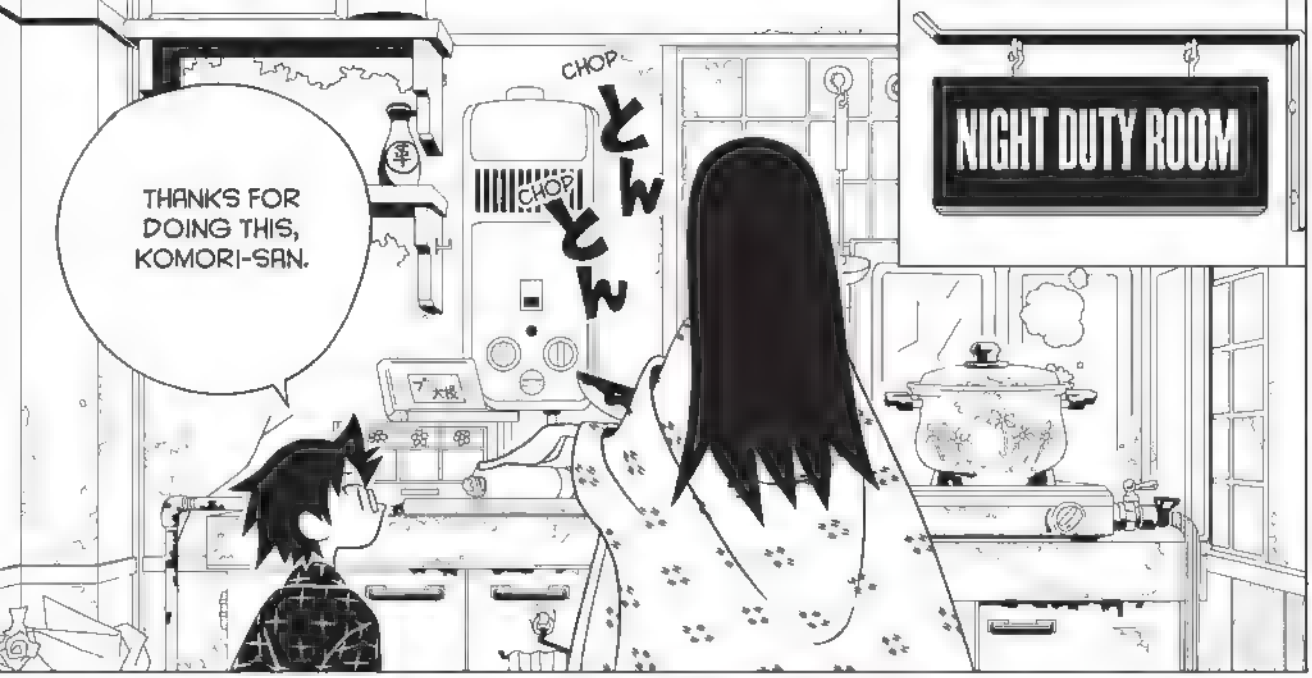
DID YOU MAKE IT TO THAT RAMEN SHOP I TOLD YOU ABOUT?

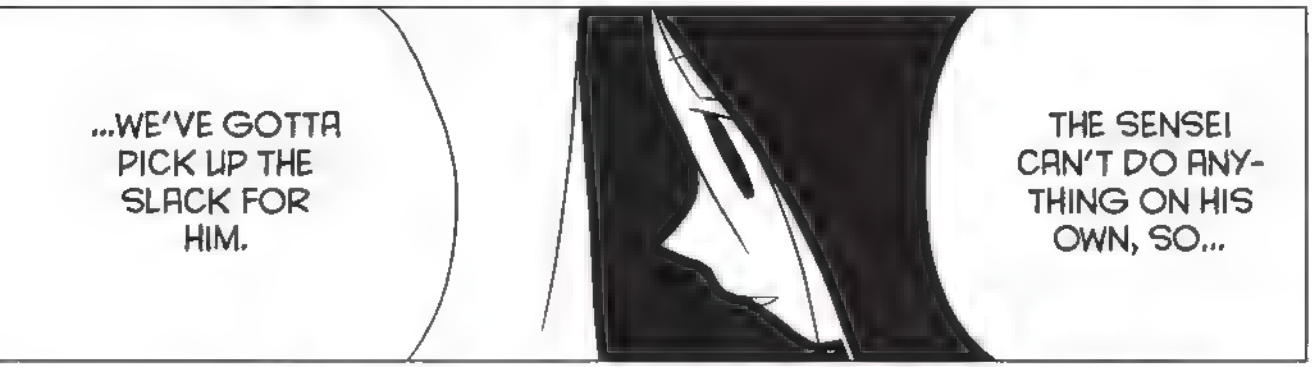
YEAH... SURE. I'LL CHECK IT OUT.
YOU LIKE RAMEN, DON'T YOU?
I FOUND A REALLY GOOD RAMEN SHOP. I'LL TELL YOU WHERE IT IS. YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY GO.
OH YEAH!

HAND BELL CONCERT No. 326
GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WITH BEAUTIFUL HAND BELL MUSIC♪
DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
LOCATION: SO HALL HANAZONO-CHO, YOTSUYA-KU
AH.
AND THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE TOO!
FWOOSH
SORRY, I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO GO YET!

WHY DON'T YOU COME?
I'M PUTTING ON A HAND BELL CONCERT WITH MY FRIENDS.
I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THAT ONE!

SENSEI, DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT YOU'RE DOING THE EXACT SAME THING TO EVERYONE AROUND YOU?
HUH?
RECOMMENDED BOOKS
MASTER OF THE SWORD
YOGA FOR TWO
DEATH METAL CD A FRIEND INSISTED ON SHARING
DEATH
NOW GO GET THIS
ERRANDS YOU HAVE TO DO IN RPGS
MY DUTIES KEEP PILING UP BECAUSE OF ALL THESE PEOPLE!


NIGHT DUTY ROOM
THANKS FOR DOING THIS, KOMORI-SAN.
CHOP
とん
CHOP
とん


...WE'VE GOTTA PICK UP THE SLACK FOR HIM.
THE SENSEI CAN'T DO ANY-THING ON HIS OWN, SO...

AH...WELL, I'M A SHUT-IN AND I DON'T GO TO CLASS, SO I'VE GOT PLENTY OF FREE TIME.
EVER SINCE WE MOVED IN HERE, SHE'S BEEN TAKING CARE OF THE PLACE.
KO-MORI-SAN.

IF YOU SAY SO.
OH WELL...
THAT'S OKAY... I LIKE DOING HOUSEWORK.
I HAD NO CLUE I WAS MAKING PEOPLE FEEL LIKE IT'S THEIR DUTY TO DO THINGS FOR ME...
ガーン
SHOCK
I ALSO FOLDED YOUR LAUNDRY.
YOU'RE SO UNTIDY, SENSEI...

節電
宿直室
無人

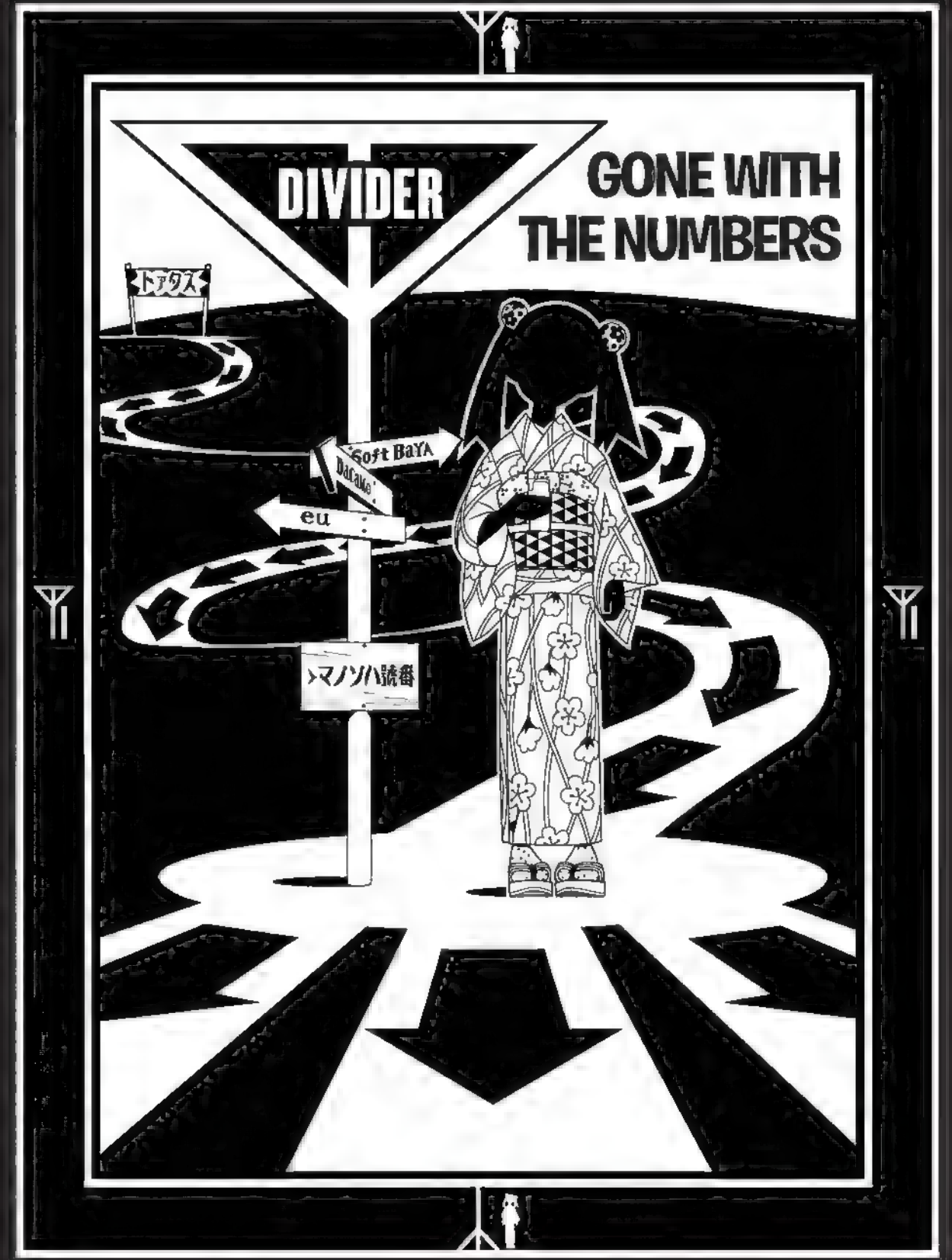
IF YOU KEEP SPOILING HIM, HE'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU!
HERE YOU GO.
I'M HEADING TO THE PACHINKO PARLOR. GIVE ME SOME MONEY.

*$100

YOU'RE FALLING FOR A LOSER, KOMORI-CHAN.
IT'S MY DUTY TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.
HE WOULD NEVER SURVIVE WITHOUT ME.

MAYBE I'LL START AN I.T. COMPANY OR SOME-THING...
I'M GONNA MAKE IT BIG SOMEDAY.
無人

WATCHING LATE-NIGHT TV ANIME IS A DUTY FOR SHUT-INS AND SLACKERS ALIKE.

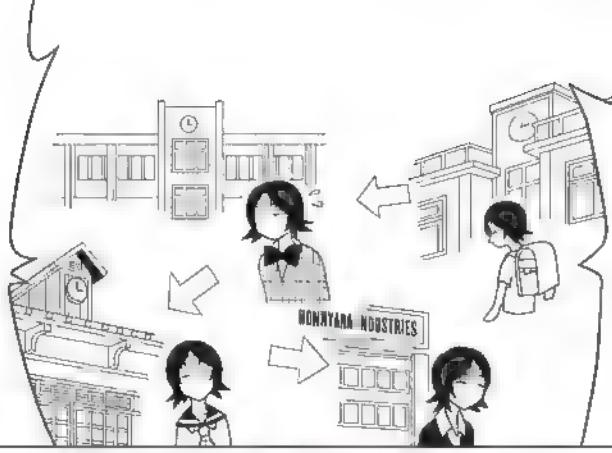


CHAPTER 72

THE CELL-PHONE NUMBER PORTABILITY SYSTEM HAS BEGUN.
YEAH, BUT THE CELL COMPANIES ARE TRYING REALLY HARD TO PROMOTE IT.
I REALLY DON'T THINK CELLPHONE USERS ARE THAT EXCITED ABOUT THIS WHOLE THING.
YEAH, IT MEANS THAT IF YOU SWITCH CELL COMPANIES, YOU CAN CARRY YOUR NUMBER OVER AND KEEP USING IT.
THE NUMBER PORTABILITY SYSTEM?
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING NEW ABOUT THAT.

MANY THINGS IN THIS WORLD...
...ARE CONSTANTLY BEING CARRIED OVER.
AH.
AH, LONG TIME NO SEE!
IT CAN BE QUITE UNPLEASANT.
IS THAT YOU, NAMI-HEI?
NAMI-HEI?
THAT MUST'VE BEEN HER OLD NICK-NAME.

...INTO JUNIOR HIGH, HIGH SCHOOL, AND EVEN WHEN YOU GET A JOB.



YOUR NICK-NAME FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GETS CARRIED OVER...

...I'M ALWAYS SURPRISED THAT THEY STILL REMEMBER MY OLD NICKNAME.

WHENEVER I'M REUNITED WITH A FRIEND I HAVEN'T SEEN SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

IT'S CALLED THE NICKNAME PORTABILITY SYSTEM!

WHAT WAS YOUR NICK-NAME?

HERE'S ANOTHER EXAMPLE.

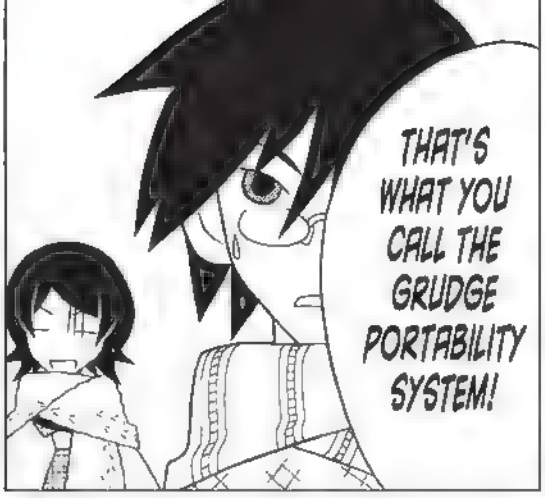
DON'T TELL ME!

NEVER MIND! DON'T TELL ME.

THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL THE STATUS PORTABILITY SYSTEM.

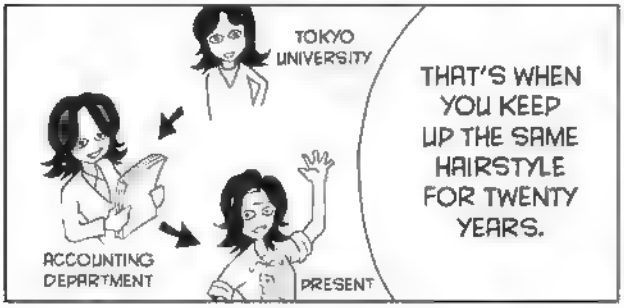
...BUT YOUR NERD STATUS IS CARRIED OVER TO THE NEW SCHOOL, AND YOU END UP GETTING BULLIED AGAIN!

SAY YOU GET BULLIED AT SCHOOL, SO YOU TRANS-FER, HOPING TO START WITH A CLEAN SLATE...

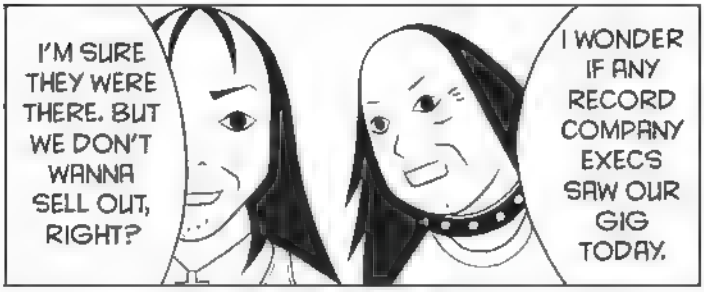

THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL THE GRUDGE PORTABILITY SYSTEM!

THIS IS FOR ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS YOU DID TO ME!
どす
STAB
THERE'S ANOTHER EXAMPLE OVER THERE.

...BUT THE PERSON HOLDING THE GRUDGE CAN NEVER LET GO.
THE OTHER PARTY MIGHT HAVE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT...
YOU CLING ON TO A GRUDGE YOU'VE HELD AGAINST SOMEONE EVER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

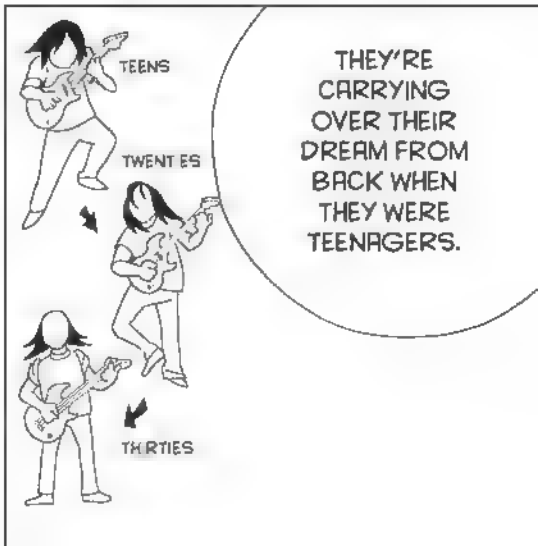

TOKYO UNIVERSITY
ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT
PRESENT
THAT'S WHEN YOU KEEP UP THE SAME HAIRSTYLE FOR TWENTY YEARS.

AH, THAT'S THE HAIRSTYLE PORTABILITY SYSTEM.

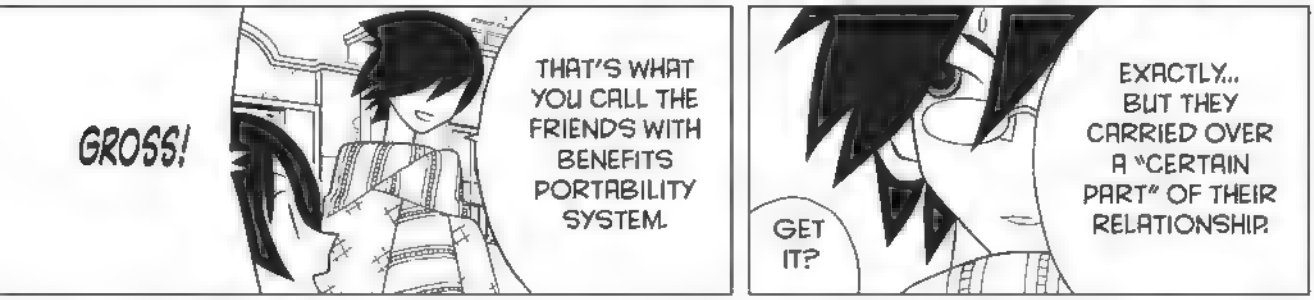

I'M SURE THEY WERE THERE. BUT WE DON'T WANNA SELL OUT, RIGHT?
I WONDER IF ANY RECORD COMPANY EXECS SAW OUR GIG TODAY.

NOW THIS IS JUST PATHETIC.

OUCH.
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL THE DREAM PORTABILITY SYSTEM.

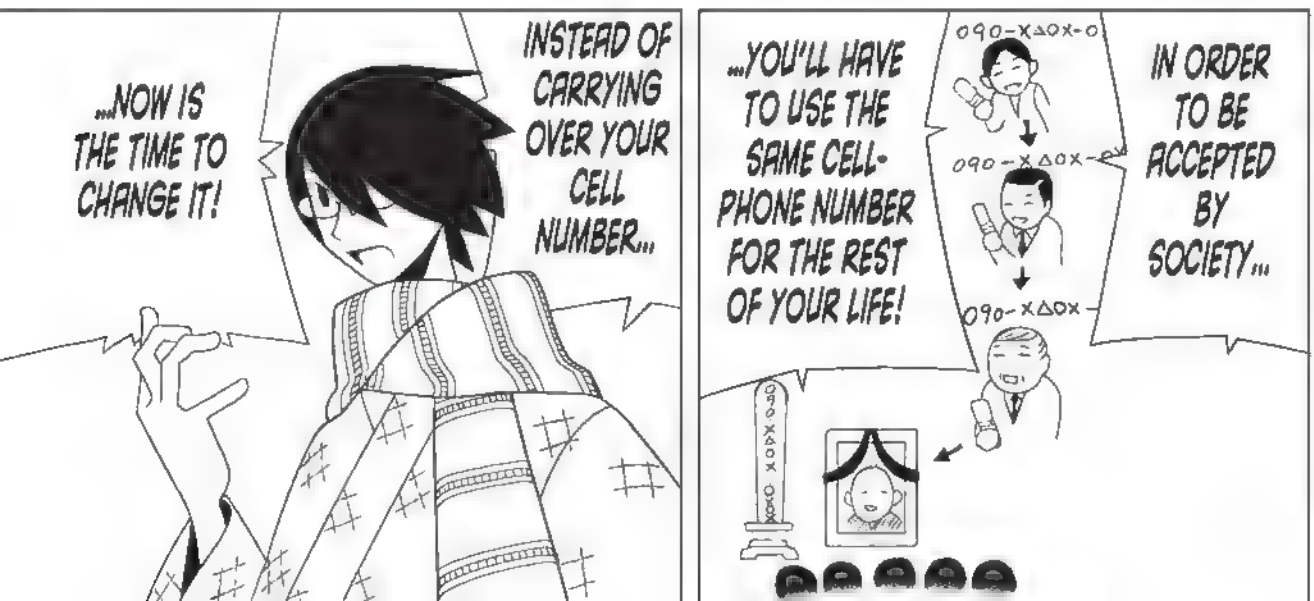

TEENS
TWENTIES
THIRTIES
THEY'RE CARRYING OVER THEIR DREAM FROM BACK WHEN THEY WERE TEENAGERS.

YOU MEAN THEY'RE EXES?
YOU SEE THAT COUPLE? THEY ACTUALLY BROKE UP A LONG TIME AGO.
DID HE SAY "GIG"?
HOT OC
HOTEL
即金!


GROSS!
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL THE FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS PORTABILITY SYSTEM.
EXACTLY... BUT THEY CARRIED OVER A "CERTAIN PART" OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP.
GET IT?

DO YOU OWE SOMEONE MONEY?
WHY DID YOU CHANGE YOUR NUMBER?
DID YOU BREAK UP WITH YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
NOW WHEN YOU DON'T CARRY YOUR NUMBER OVER, IT'LL SEEM LIKE YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING.
IT'S THE SYSTEM ITSELF THAT'S GROSS.

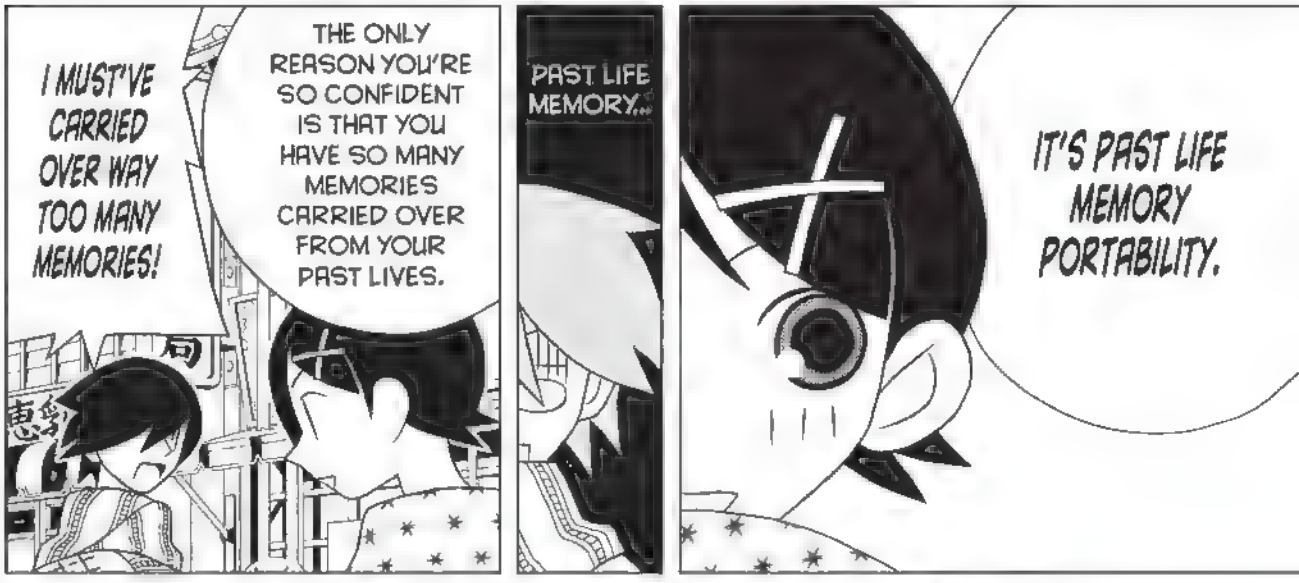
...LOSERS WHO CAN'T HOLD DOWN A DECENT JOB.
NO
SOON, PEOPLE WHO CHANGE THEIR CELL NUMBERS WILL BE THOUGHT OF AS...


...NOW IS THE TIME TO CHANGE IT!
INSTEAD OF CARRYING OVER YOUR CELL NUMBER...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO USE THE SAME CELL-PHONE NUMBER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
090-X△0X-0
090-X△0X-
090-X△0X-
IN ORDER TO BE ACCEPTED BY SOCIETY...

YOU KNOW...
THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT ARE CARRIED OVER AUTOMATICALLY.
LIKE RECENTLY PRIVATIZED COMPANIES THAT FUNCTION AS IF THEY WERE STILL RUN BY THE GOVERNMENT.
HIGHWAY
THAT'S CALLED BUREAUCRATIC PORTABILITY!
THE BAD BLOOD BETWEEN AIZU AND CHOUSHUU...
BOOM
...IS STILL BEING CARRIED OVER EVEN WO YEARS AFTER THE END OF THE WAR.
1974
1982
1988
1999
2004
2006
THEN THERE'S THE CHUUNICHI DRAGONS BASEBALL TEAM AND THEIR THIRTY-TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF LOSING. THAT'S CALLED LAST-PLACE PORTABILITY.
• PRIME MINISTER KOIZUMI'S REFORMS
• THE NATIONAL DEBT
• DIVORCE RECORDS
• THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM'S HATRED OF THE CRUSADES
• A PROFESSOR'S SEXUAL PERVERSION
• FORMER MEMBERS OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHO JOINED THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
• THE STATUS OF GRADUATING FROM AOBA NI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CLUB
• THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JOJO AND DIO IN THE GAME JOJO'S STRANGE ADVENTURE
• HANDBAG MAKER SHINZABUROU HANPU'S CRAFTSMEN
• THE FOLLOWERS OF A CERTAIN CULT AFTER THE NAME WAS CHANGED
• FORMER GA*GAN MANGA ARTISTS NOW WORKING FOR COMIC BL*DE
• TOKYO MUTSUGOROU KINGDOM
• HAVING A COMPLEX ABOUT SHONEN JUMP EVEN WHILE WORKING FOR ANOTHER MAGAZINE
AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER THINGS THAT ARE CARRIED OVER.
IT'S HOPELESS! I'VE LOST ALL FAITH IN THIS COUNTRY WHERE YOU CAN NEVER HAVE A CLEAN SLATE!
EVERYTHING IS CARRIED OVER! I CAN'T EVEN REINVENT MYSELF ANYMORE!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF CARRYING THINGS OVER.
BUT CARRYING THINGS OVER CAN BE GOOD.
YEAH.
IT'S ESPECIALLY USEFUL WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO SOLVE CRIMES.
I HAD A CORNEAL TRANSPLANT WHEN I WAS A KID...
...AND ALL THESE YEARS I'VE BEEN HAVING FLASH-BACKS WHERE I SEE AN IMAGE OF THE SAME GROUP OF NUMBERS...
YOU SEE, IT'S A MEMORY THAT WAS CARRIED OVER.
THOSE NUMBERS ARE ACTUALLY THE LICENSE PLATE OF THE CAR THAT RAN OVER THE DONOR.
ISN'T THERE AN OLD URBAN LEGEND LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE SCARING ME!
IT'S VISUAL IMAGE PORTABILITY.

WHAT THE HELL IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
IN OTHER WORDS, I AM THE REINCARNATION OF THE GREAT SORCERER GARABONISHIYASU!
GOD IS HERE.
I AM YAMADA, BUT RIGHT NOW I AM NOT YAMADA!

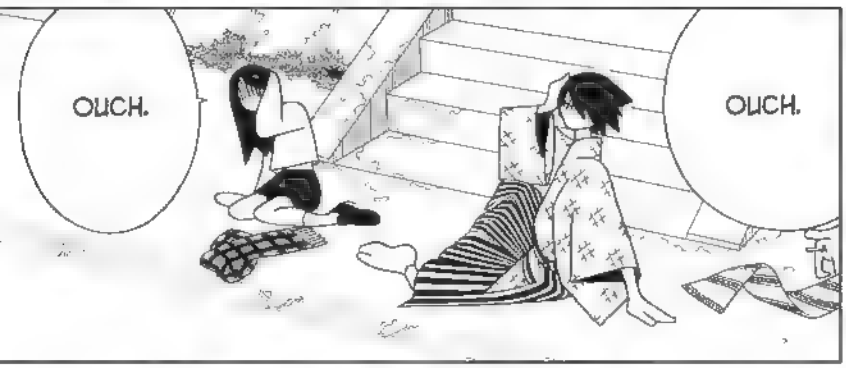

I MUST'VE CARRIED OVER WAY TOO MANY MEMORIES!
THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE SO CONFIDENT IS THAT YOU HAVE SO MANY MEMORIES CARRIED OVER FROM YOUR PAST LIVES.
PAST LIFE MEMORY...
IT'S PAST LIFE MEMORY PORTABILITY.

...ALL THE AWFUL MEMORIES FROM THIS LIFE WILL BE CARRIED OVER INTO MY FUTURE LIVES?
DOES THAT MEAN...
AH

...IN MY NEXT LIFE.
I WANNA START WITH A CLEAN SLATE...
...THAT HAS BEEN IN USE FOR MANY YEARS.
ACTUALLY, THERE'S A PORTABILITY SYSTEM IN THE MANGA WORLD...
I DON'T WANT ALL THOSE MEMORIES!

WAH.
YAH!
WAH.

BONK


OUCH.
OUCH.

ROLL
ROLL
ROLL

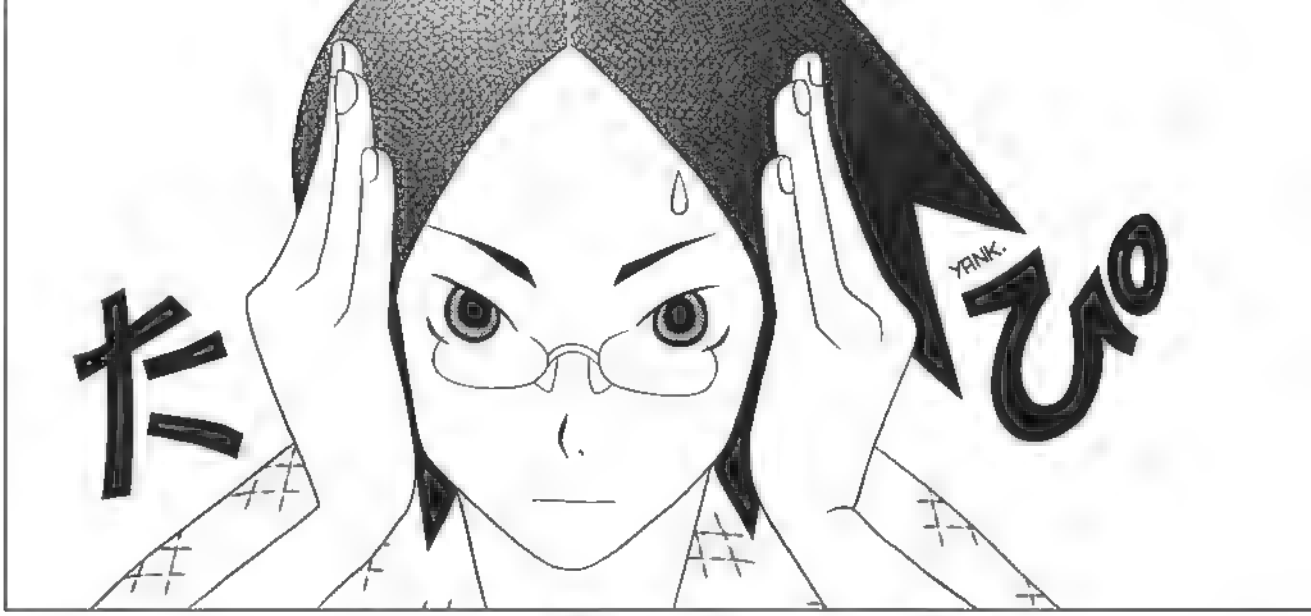
AAH.
AH.

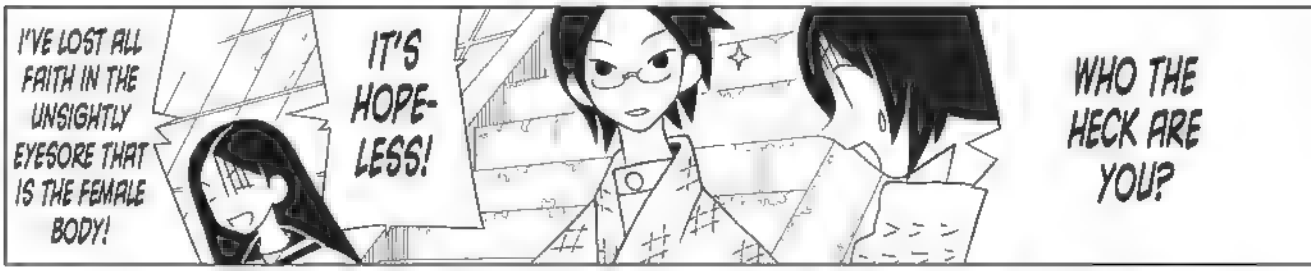
HUH?
HUH?

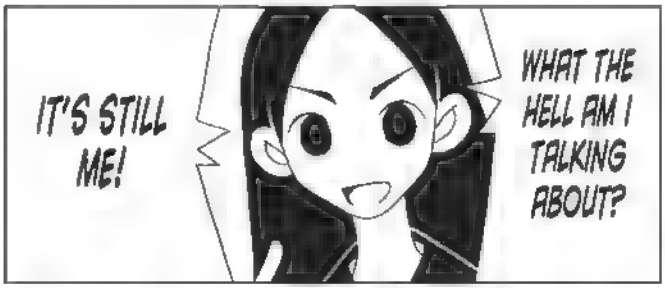
...WHERE A MALE CHARACTER AND A FEMALE CHARACTER SWAP PERSONALITIES.
I'M TALKING ABOUT PERSONALITY PORTABILITY...

EVERY-THING MUST BE PRECISE!

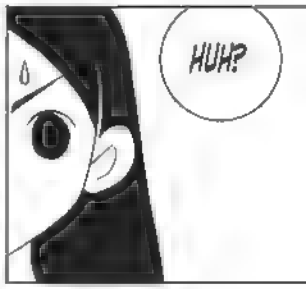
ガーン
SHOCK
...AND I'M YOU?
YOU'RE ME..
IT'S OFTEN USED IN LOVE COMICS WHEN THE WRITER IS OUT OF IDEAS.


YANK.


I'VE LOST ALL FAITH IN THE UNSIGHTLY EYESORE THAT IS THE FEMALE BODY!
IT'S HOPE-LESS!
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?


IT'S STILL ME!
WHAT THE HELL AM I TALKING ABOUT?

HUH?

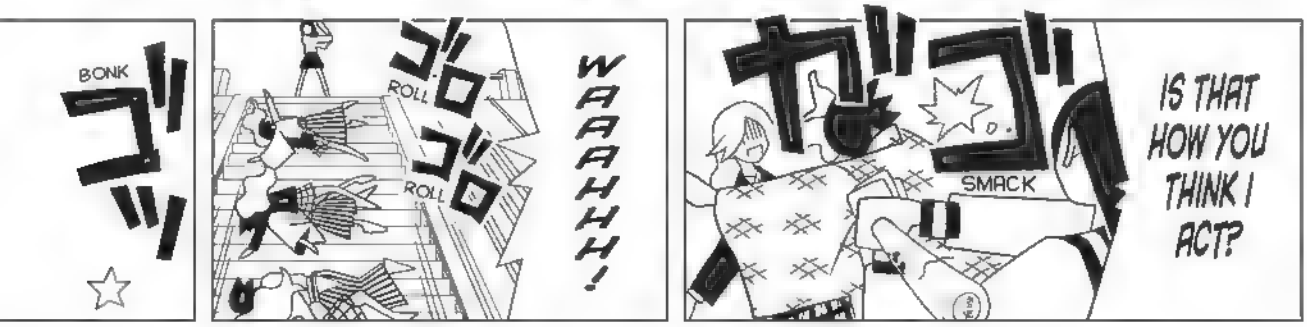

HUH?

SHH.
WHO ARE YOU?
BUT SENSEI LOOKS PRETTY CONVINCED THAT HE'S YOU.
WE DIDN'T SWAP PERSONALITIES.

I CAN'T STAND IT WHEN THINGS AREN'T PRECISE.

DON'T TELL ANYBODY, BUT CHIRI KITSU IS TRAPPED INSIDE MY BODY!

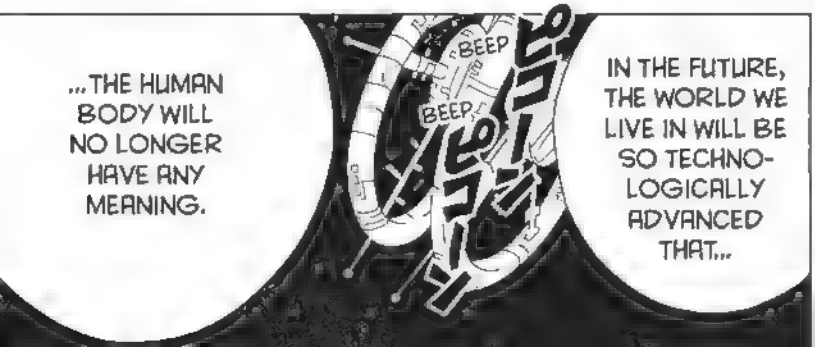
THAT'S SO NOT TRUE!
IDEAL
MAN
MY IDEAL MAN IS TAMORI. HIS HAIR IS PARTED RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE


BONK
ROLL
ROLL
WAAAHH!
SMACK
IS THAT HOW YOU THINK I ACT?

I'M KAEDE KIMURA. I'M JUST A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE WOMAN.
SHY
GLARE
I'M GONNA SUE YOU!
OUCH.

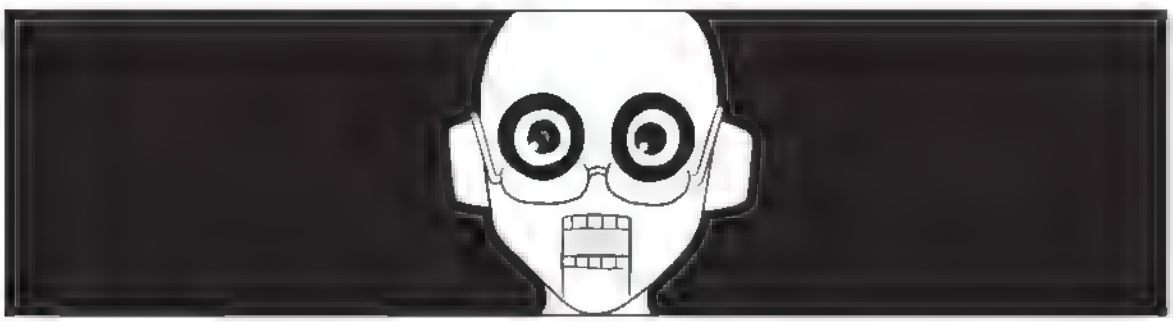
...IS TRAPPED INSIDE THE SENSEI'S BODY.
KAERE-CHAN'S ALTERNATE PERSON-ALITY...

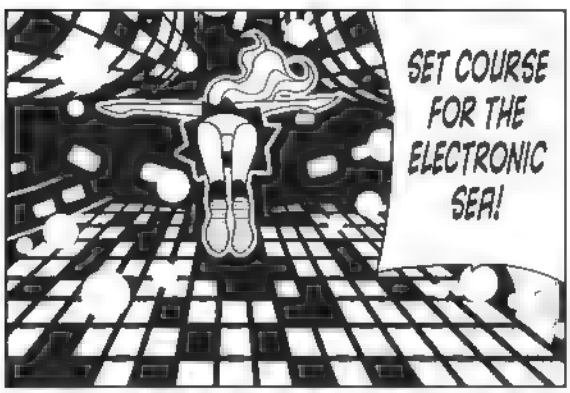
YOU'LL BE FINE.
I HAVE NO PLACE TO GO!

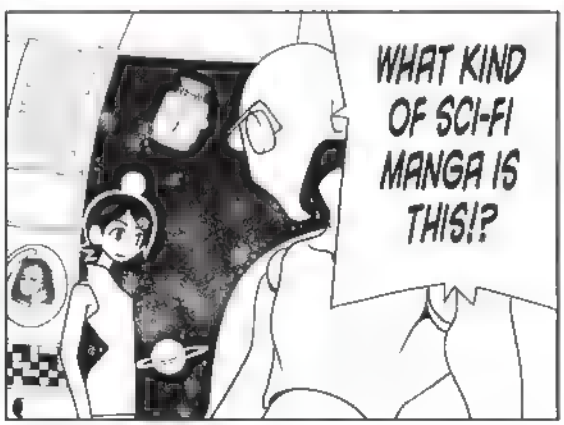

...THE HUMAN BODY WILL NO LONGER HAVE ANY MEANING.
BEEP
BEEP
IN THE FUTURE, THE WORLD WE LIVE IN WILL BE SO TECHNO-LOGICALLY ADVANCED THAT...

SHOCK
FLOAT
FLOAT
SWAPPED
SWAPPED

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW BODY, SENSEI?




SET COURSE FOR THE ELECTRONIC SEA!


WHAT KIND OF SCI-FI MANGA IS THIS!?

IT KINDA SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE CARRYING OVER STUFF FROM OTHER MANGA TITLES.
YEAH.
HOW ABOUT WE JUST CALL THAT CREATIVE LICENSE?

通
SHICHIGOSAN-
SHIROU
TENJIN-
SAMA
大人
THE ROAD HOME IS THE SCARY PART.
THE ROAD HOME IS THE SCARY PART.
THE ROAD HOME IS THE SCARY PART.
THE RO HOME IS SCARY PART.
通

CHAPTER 73

CELEBRATE
CHITOSE AME
CANDIES
どきどき
THUMP
THUMP
WHY EVEN BOTHER CELEBRATING SHICHIGOSAN?

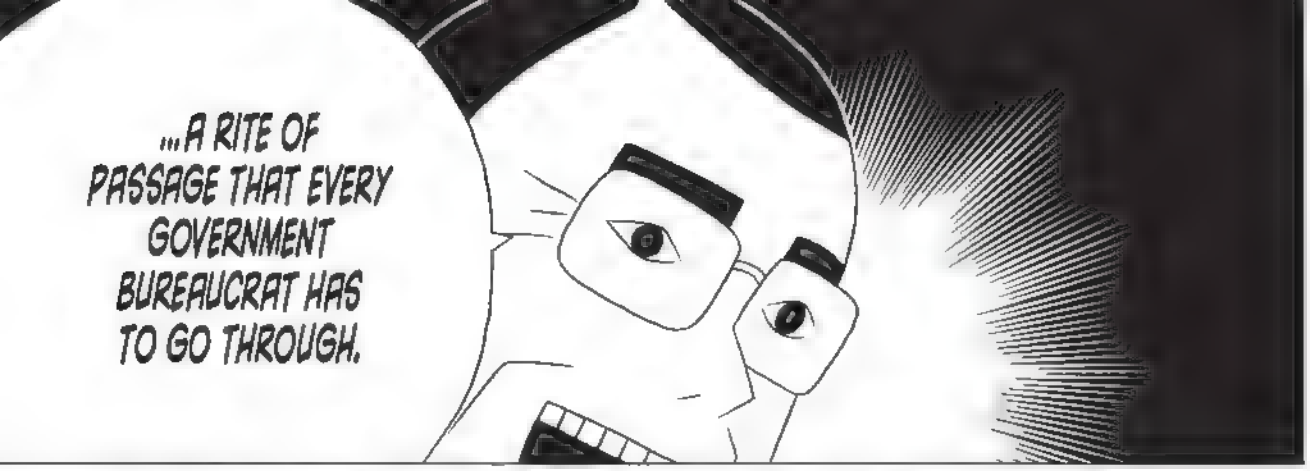
THESE TRADITIONS MUST BE PRACTICED WITH PRECISION.
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE?
WE'RE ALL SORT OF LIKE MAJIRU-KUN'S PARENTS, SO...
RITES OF PASSAGE?
RITES OF PASSAGE ARE VERY IMPORTANT.

...DEPENDING ON WHAT FIELD YOU'RE IN.
YOU KNOW, *RITES OF PASSAGE* CAN BE QUITE DIFFERENT...
OH, I GET IT.
INDUSTRY?
FOR A MOUNTAIN CLIMBER, IT WOULD BE GETTING ALTITUDE SICKNESS FOR THE FIRST TIME.
A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR A SAILOR WOULD BE GETTING HORRIBLY SEA-SICK FOR THE FIRST TIME.
HAHAHA
FOR A ROOKIE IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES, IT'S WHEN YOUR TEAM-MATES STEAL YOUR CLOTHES OUT OF YOUR LOCKER AND REPLACE THEM WITH A CRAZY OUTFIT.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE KINDS OF RITES OF PASSAGE THAT ARE BEST AVOIDED...
WELL, THOSE ARE PRETTY NORMAL RITES OF PASSAGE, BUT...
DON'T SAY NORMAL!

NEGATIVE RITES OF PASSAGE?
I CALL THEM NEGATIVE RITES OF PASSAGE.
THIS IS TENJIN-SAMA'S PATH.
YOU'LL UNDER-STAND IF YOU GO DOWN THIS PATH.
ALL SORTS OF TERRIFYING RITES OF PASSAGE LIE AHEAD.
IF YOU'RE SCARED, YOU CAN STAY BEHIND.
...AND LEARN HOW FRAGILE THIS WORLD REALLY IS.
EVERY MAN WHO BELONGS TO THE ITOSHIKI FAMILY MUST WALK THIS PATH...

I'M NOT SCARED.
I'M GOING.
NOZOMU-SAMA HASN'T YET GONE DOWN THIS PATH...
UMM, RIN-SAMA... TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
MY, MY, SUCH BRAVERY.
YOU'RE SUCH A CHICKEN!
NOZOMU-SAMA!
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A MANDATORY RITE OF PASSAGE OR ANYTHING.
YEAH, BUT...
EVEN THIS LITTLE BOY HAS ENOUGH COURAGE TO DO IT.
WHAT HAVE WE GOTTEN OURSELVES INTO?
PATH
GO WITH HIM!

課
ENVIRONMENTAL BEAUTIFICATION DEPARTMENT
節税
PLEASE WAIT
HI, ARE YOU THE NEW EMPLOYEES?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
HAVE A SEAT OVER HERE.
GLARE
DREAM TIME
ALL YOU DO IS STEAL TAXPAYER MONEY!
HA, HA, THAT'S JUST...
WH-WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

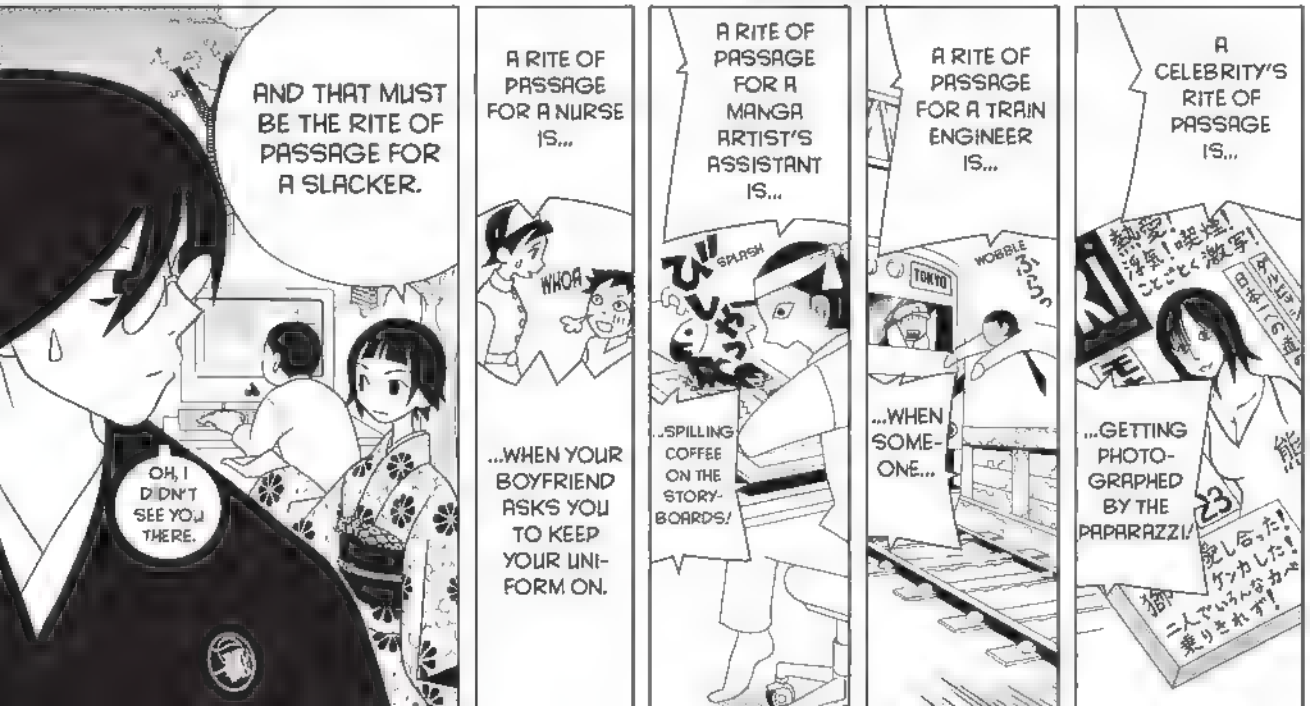

...A RITE OF PASSAGE THAT EVERY GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRAT HAS TO GO THROUGH.

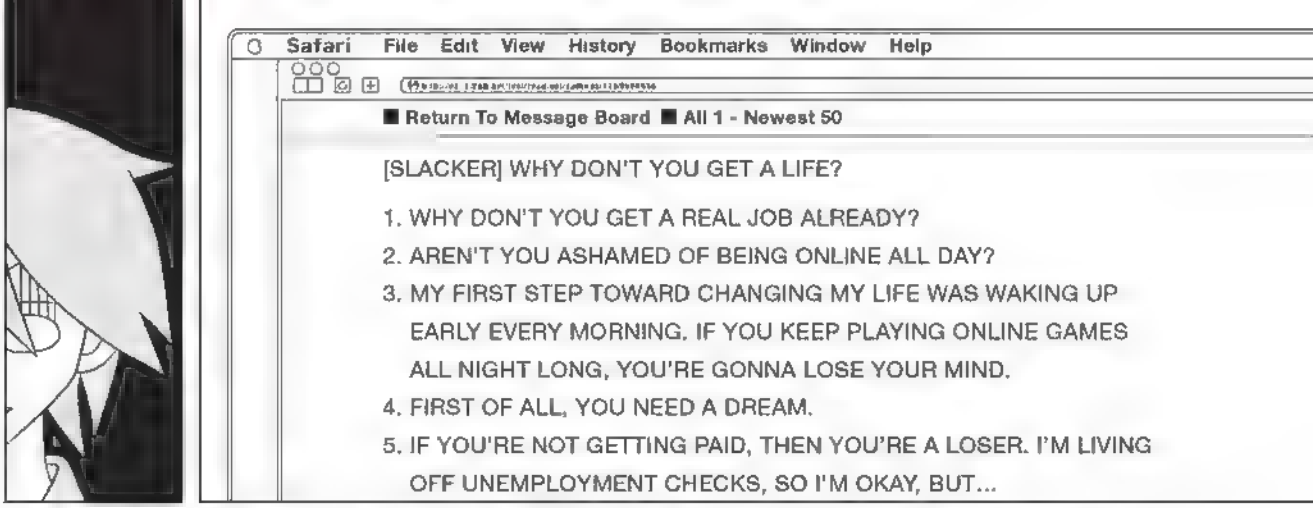
WELL, YEAH... BUT...
THAT GUY JUST DID.

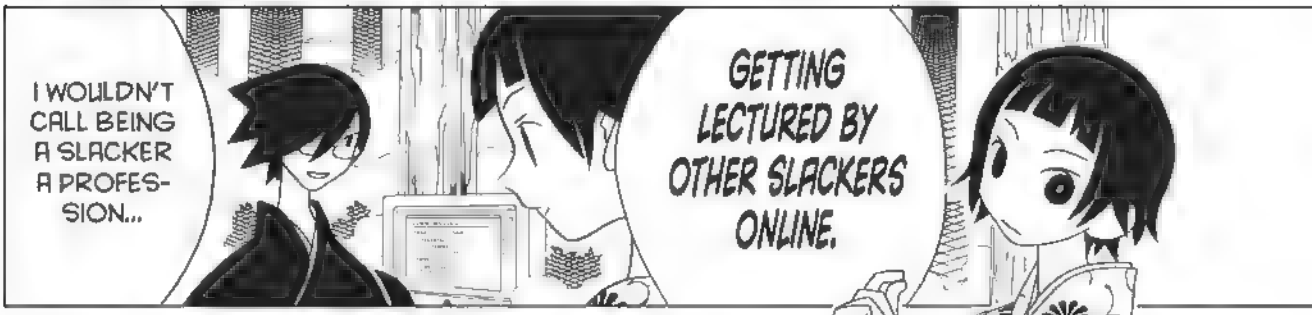
WELL, TECHNICALLY, I'M EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND NOBODY'S EVER YELLED AT ME.
GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TWO
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'VE ALL BEEN YELLED AT BY THE PUBLIC AT SOME POINT IN OUR CAREERS.

ONLY HALF OF THEM ARE THIEVES.
OF COURSE THEY'RE NOT.
I HAD NO IDEA THAT ALL GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRATS WERE THIEVES.

...WHO HAVE TO PASS THROUGH A NEGATIVE RITE OF PASSAGE AS THEIR CAREERS BEGIN.
GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRATS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES ...

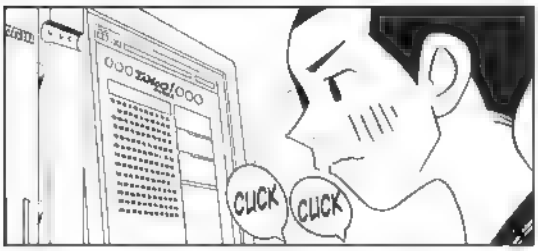

AND THAT MUST BE THE RITE OF PASSAGE FOR A SLACKER.
OH, I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE.
A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR A NURSE IS...
WHOA
...WHEN YOUR BOYFRIEND ASKS YOU TO KEEP YOUR UNIFORM ON.
A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR A MANGA ARTIST'S ASSISTANT IS...
SPLASH
...SPILLING COFFEE ON THE STORYBOARDS!
A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR A TRAIN ENGINEER IS...
TOKYO
WOBBLE
...WHEN SOMEONE...
A CELEBRITY'S RITE OF PASSAGE IS...
...GETTING PHOTOGRAPHED BY THE PAPARAZZI!


Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help
■ Return To Message Board ■ All 1 - Newest 50
[SLACKER] WHY DON'T YOU GET A LIFE?
1. WHY DON'T YOU GET A REAL JOB ALREADY?
2. AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF BEING ONLINE ALL DAY?
3. MY FIRST STEP TOWARD CHANGING MY LIFE WAS WAKING UP EARLY EVERY MORNING. IF YOU KEEP PLAYING ONLINE GAMES ALL NIGHT LONG, YOU'RE GONNA LOSE YOUR MIND.
4. FIRST OF ALL, YOU NEED A DREAM.
5. IF YOU'RE NOT GETTING PAID, THEN YOU'RE A LOSER. I'M LIVING OFF UNEMPLOYMENT CHECKS, SO I'M OKAY, BUT...

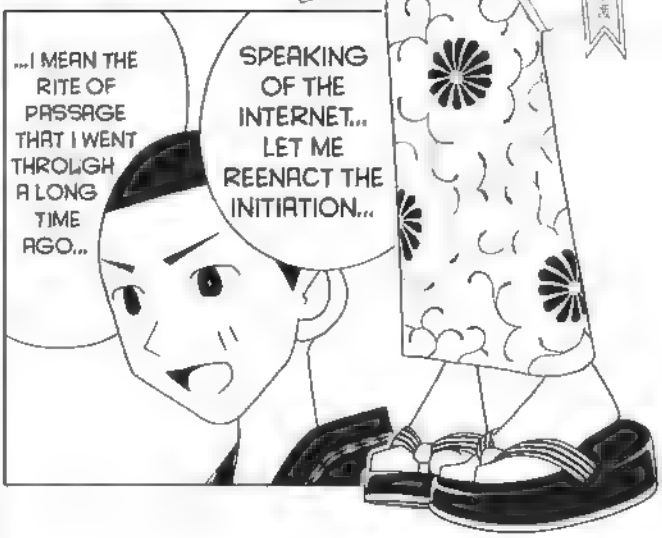

I WOULDN'T CALL BEING A SLACKER A PROFESSION...
GETTING LECTURED BY OTHER SLACKERS ONLINE.

...EVERYONE MUST GO DOWN ONCE.
JOBS
YEP, THAT'S A PATH THAT...

IKKYU-SAN.
THEY EXIST IN THE WORLD OF HOBBIES TOO.
ぬっ STEP
THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD ISN'T THE ONLY PLACE WHERE RITES OF PASSAGE EXIST.


CLICK
CLICK

H JUNGLE
YOU MUST BE OVER 18 TO ENTER THIS SITE
ENTER
ERORIN ☺
ぱっ BLIP

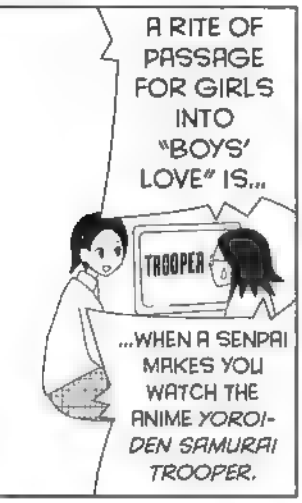

...I MEAN THE RITE OF PASSAGE THAT I WENT THROUGH A LONG TIME AGO...
SPEAKING OF THE INTERNET... LET ME REENACT THE INITIATION...

ぱっ
BLILP
TITTY MANIA
GREATEST HITS
SCHOOL UNIFORM
THE COMPLETE COLLECTION
ENTER
YUUKA'S ROOM
SEXY MODEL
YUUKA ♥ OGURA'S HOME PAGE

NEW WINDOWS KEEP OPENING UP ON THEIR OWN, AND I CAN'T STOP THEM!
ぱっ ぱっ ぱっ
BLILP
WAAAHHH!

BAPTISM BY POP-UP WINDOW.
WELL, I GUESS THAT IS THE RITE OF PASSAGE FOR PORN SITES!

WHY ARE YOU WOO HOO-ING?
WOO HOO!

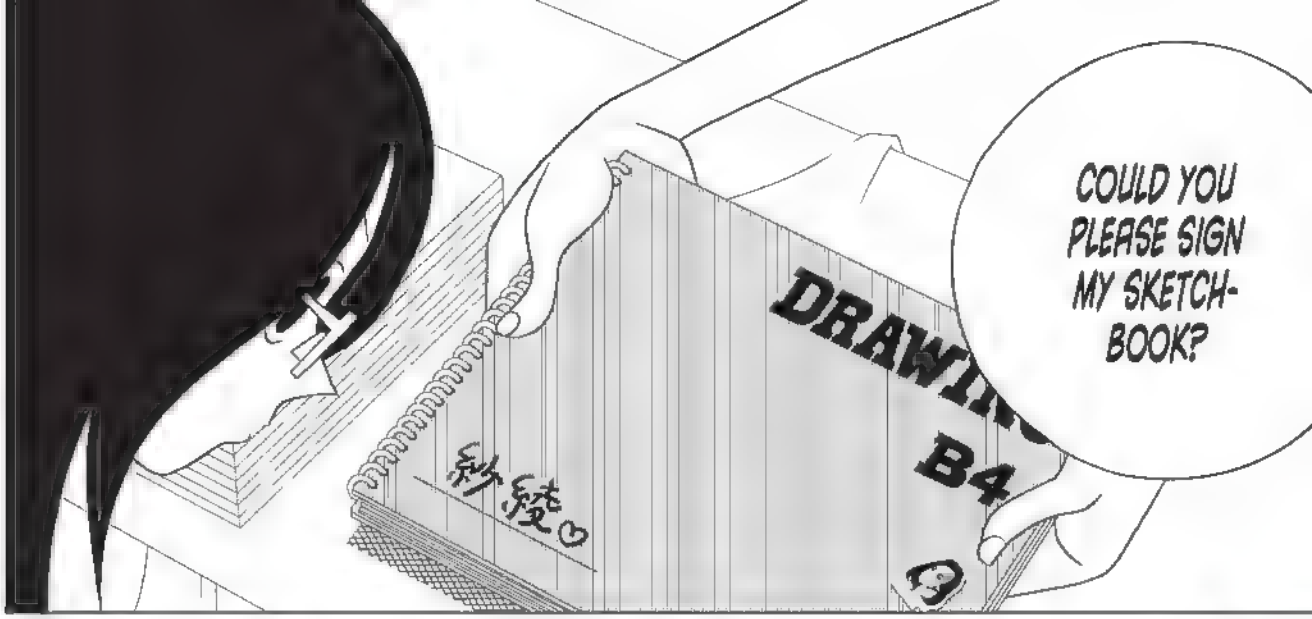

A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR GIRLS INTO "BOYS' LOVE" IS...
TROOPER
...WHEN A SENPAI MAKES YOU WATCH THE ANIME YOROI-DEN SAMURAI TROOPER.

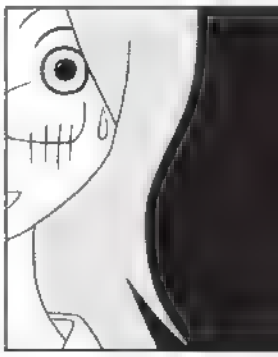
A RITE OF PASSAGE AT A VIDEO ARCADE IS...
GRR
...WHEN SOMEONE YELLS AT YOU FOR HOGGING THE GAME!
GRRR

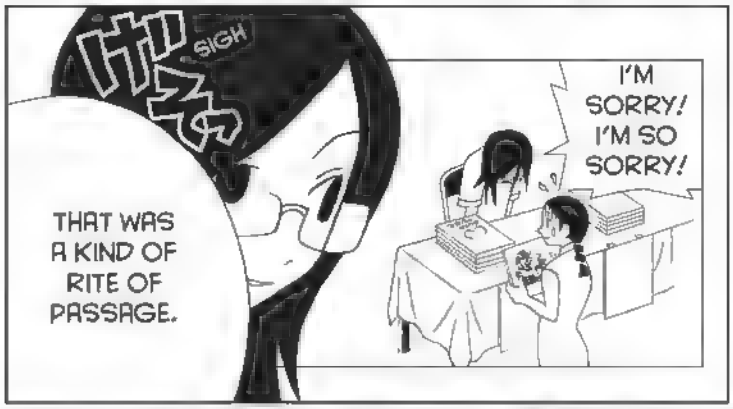
A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR A COS-PLAYER IS...
WHAT?
...GETTING TURNED AWAY AT THE DOOR FOR TRYING TO BRING YOUR SWORD IN.

THERE ARE VARIOUS TYPES OF RITES OF PASSAGE IN OUR WORLD TOO.
SPEAKING OF RITES OF PASSAGE FOR HOBBIES...

UM...
AND I HAD AN EXPERIENCE OF MY OWN...
GAS GREAT AKIRA X SHIKITI!
DIG HERE







*APPARENTLY, WHAT FANS HATE MOST IS WHEN ARTISTS TEAR THE PAGES OUT OF THEIR SKETCHBOOKS AFTER THEY MESS UP.

IT STILL HAPPENS TO ME ALL THE TIME...
THAT'S THE TOKYO RITE OF PASSAGE.
DING-DONG
ピンポーン
DING-DONG
ピンポーン
YOU GET THE TOKYO METRO LINE AND THE TOEI SUBWAY LINE MIXED UP, AND YOU END UP STUCK AT THE TICKET GATE.

GYAAA!
AND HERE'S A *RITE OF PASSAGE* FOR WHEN YOU'RE LIVING ON YOUR OWN FOR THE FIRST TIME.

• YOU CROSS THE STREET TWICE INSTEAD OF USING THE DIAGONAL CROSSWALK.
• YOU CAN'T GO ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP OF THE TOKYO TOWER BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T BRING ENOUGH MONEY.
• YOU END UP LOST IN THE UNDERGROUND SHOPPING AREA WHILE WALKING AROUND SHINJUKU STATION.
• YOU GET EXTREMELY LONELY AT NIGHT.
THERE'RE OTHER KINDS OF RITES OF PASSAGE YOU MUST GO THROUGH WHEN YOU FIRST MOVE TO TOKYO.

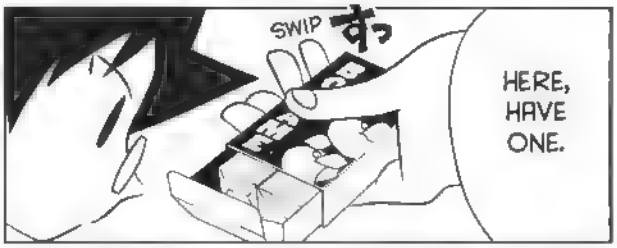
BLEAH
オエッ
YOU DISCOVER OLD VEGGIES IN YOUR FRIDGE THAT HAVE TURNED INTO A SLIMY GOO.

ROTTEN.
どろぉう

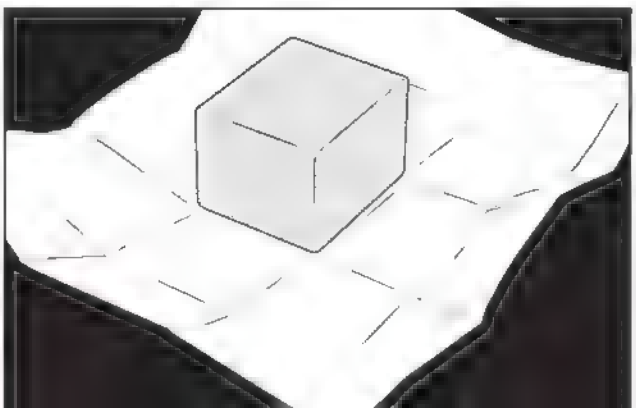
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT MAJIRU-KUN.

DID YOU GUYS FOLLOW US?
THERE ARE LOTS OF FOOD-RELATED RITES OF PASSAGE.

RIP
めり
RIP
めりっ


SWIP
すっ
HERE, HAVE ONE.

GRIN
ニヤ
GRIN
ニヤ
WH-WHAT?



YOU DON'T HAVE TO PEEL THE WRAPPER OFF... YOU CAN EAT THE WHOLE THING.

SO? THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH UNWRAPPING IT.
EVERY-BODY'S DONE THAT AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIVES.
THAT'S THE BOTANAME CANDY RITE OF PASSAGE.

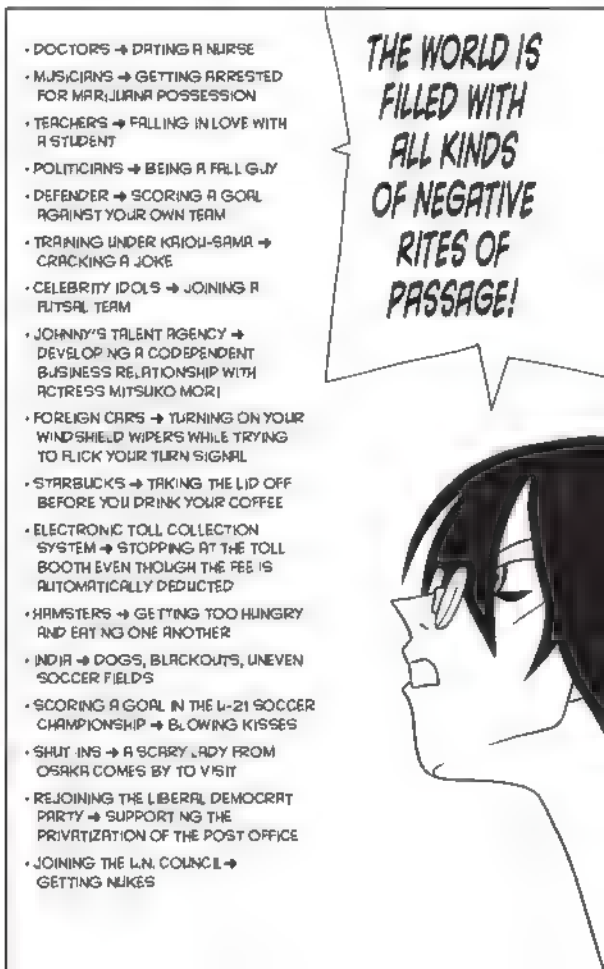
AND THOSE AREN'T THE ONLY ONES.

SPLOOSH
• A FILLING COMES OUT WHILE YOU'RE EATING TAFFY.
• THE MIDDLE PART OF A HOT GREEN ONION SLIPS OUT AND BURNS YOUR THROAT.
• YOU DUMP THE NOODLES IN THE SINK BY ACCIDENT WHEN MAKING INSTANT YAKISOBA.

WE SHOULD ALL BE AWARE OF THE MANY FOOD-RELATED RITES OF PASSAGE.

THAT'S AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RITE OF PASSAGE.
WHAT'S THAT?

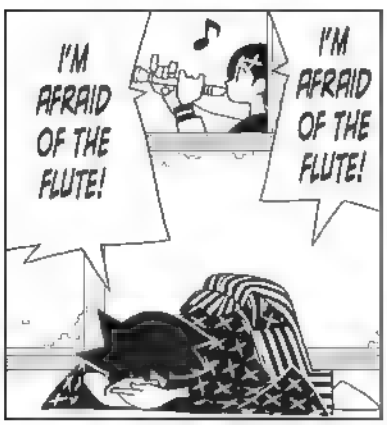
LICKING YOUR SWEETHEART'S FLUTE.

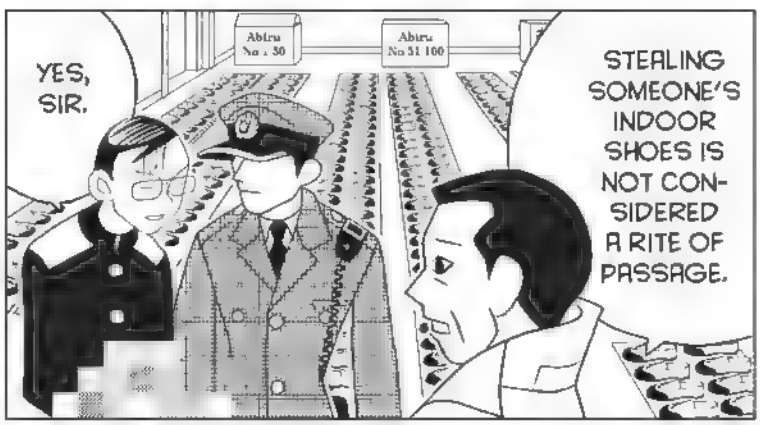

THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH ALL KINDS OF NEGATIVE RITES OF PASSAGE!
• DOCTORS → DATING A NURSE
• MUSICIANS → GETTING ARRESTED FOR MARIJUANA POSSESSION
• TEACHERS → FALLING IN LOVE WITH A STUDENT
• POLITICIANS → BEING A FALL GUY
• DEFENDER → SCORING A GOAL AGAINST YOUR OWN TEAM
• TRAINING UNDER KAIOU-SAMA → CRACKING A JOKE
• CELEBRITY IDOLS → JOINING A FUTSAL TEAM
• JOHNNY'S TALENT AGENCY → DEVELOPING A CODEPENDENT BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH ACTRESS MITSUKO MORI
• FOREIGN CARS → TURNING ON YOUR WINDSHIELD WIPERS WHILE TRYING TO FLICK YOUR TURN SIGNAL
• STARBUCKS → TAKING THE LID OFF BEFORE YOU DRINK YOUR COFFEE
• ELECTRONIC TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEM → STOPPING AT THE TOLL BOOTH EVEN THOUGH THE FEE IS AUTOMATICALLY DEDUCTED
• HAMSTERS → GETTING TOO HUNGRY AND EATING ONE ANOTHER
• INDIA → DOGS, BLACKOUTS, UNEVEN SOCCER FIELDS
• SCORING A GOAL IN THE U-21 SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP → BLOWING KISSES
• SHUT INS → A SCARY LADY FROM OSAKA COMES BY TO VISIT
• REJOINING THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY → SUPPORTING THE PRIVATIZATION OF THE POST OFFICE
• JOINING THE U.N. COUNCIL → GETTING NUKES

HUH?
I'VE NEVER DONE THAT.
YEAH, IT'S A PATH THAT ALL BOYS MUST PASS THROUGH AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIVES.
THAT'S A RITE OF PASSAGE!?
IT'S SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE.
YOU HAVEN'T COMPLETED YOUR RITES OF PASSAGE. THAT'S TERRIBLE.
BUT YOU'RE A GUY! HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE?
YOU HAVEN'T DONE IT YET, SENSEI?
カ
FLASH
I HAVEN'T COMPLETED MY TEACHER'S RITE OF PASSAGE YET EITHER.
WAIT!
GLARE
SLIDE
カラッ
CLASS 2-F
LET ME DEAL WITH THAT ONE FIRST...
TEACHER'S RITE OF PASSAGE?

BONK
ゴ"""

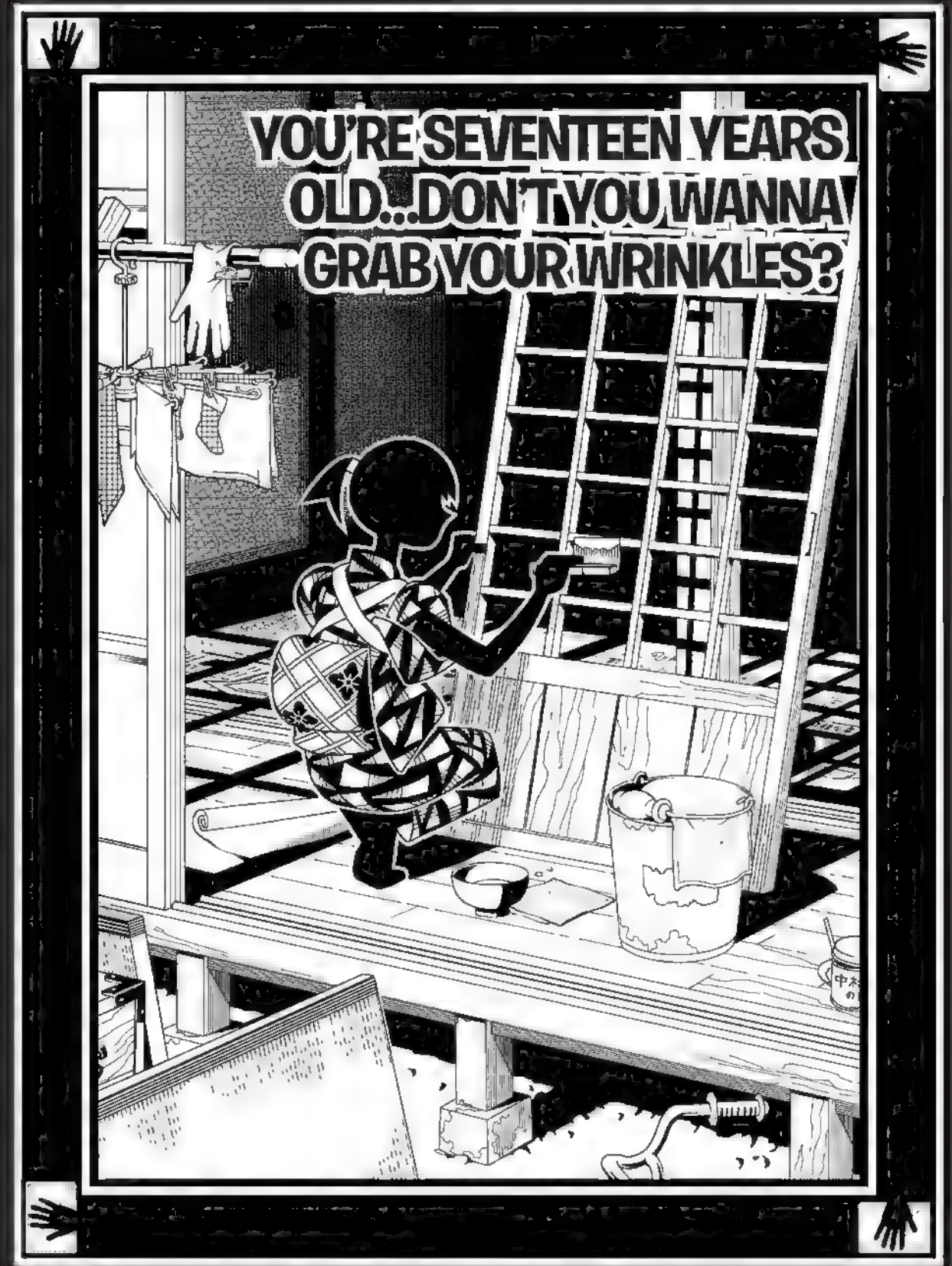
THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT?
I FEEL LIKE YOU'VE ALL FINALLY ACCEPTED ME AS YOUR TEACHER.


I'M AFRAID OF THE FLUTE!
I'M AFRAID OF THE FLUTE!


YES, SIR.
STEALING SOMEONE'S INDOOR SHOES IS NOT CONSIDERED A RITE OF PASSAGE.

GETTING CREASES IN YOUR SWEAT-PANTS...
TSSSS-HHH
しゅ
しゅ
しゅ
しゅ
TSSSS-HHH
...HAVING LEFTOVER FOREIGN CURRENCY...
...GETTING HIT BY A CAR WHILE WALKING ON THE CENTER LINE.
THWACK
ズガッ

THE PATH OF PRECISION?
THESE ARE THE RITES OF PASSAGE YOU MUST GO THROUGH IN ORDER TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF PRECISION.


YOU'RE SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD...DON'T YOU WANNA GRAB YOUR WRINKLES?

CHAPTER 74

YEAR-END PARTIES ARE GOING ON EVERYWHERE.

WELL, IT'S THE END OF THE YEAR, AND PEOPLE ARE GETTING READY TO LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND.

SENSEI.

LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND?

YOU CAN'T LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND. YOU CAN'T DENY YOUR OWN HISTORY!
HUH?
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU CAN'T FORGET HOW OLD YOU ARE!

YEAH!
NIGHTMARE IS AWESOME!

HE'S FORGOTTEN HOW OLD HE IS.
JINROKU-SENSEI... YOU'RE LISTENING TO SUCH YOUTHFUL MUSIC...

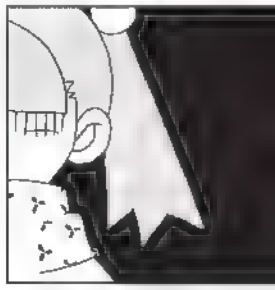
ぴろっ
POOH
FLIP

SHE'S FORGOTTEN HOW OLD SHE IS!
ひよおお
HYUUU
THAT MIDDLE-AGED LADY HAS A CUTE CARTOON CHARACTER ON HER UNDIES.

1 NEW MESSAGE
FROM: DAD
16:44
BEEP
BEEP

HELLOOOO.
WHAT'S UP?
OMG, AREN'T YOU GONNA TEXT ME BACK?
DADDY MISSES YOU
LOL

HE'S FORGOTTEN HOW OLD HE IS.
YOUR DAD USES EMOTICONS?



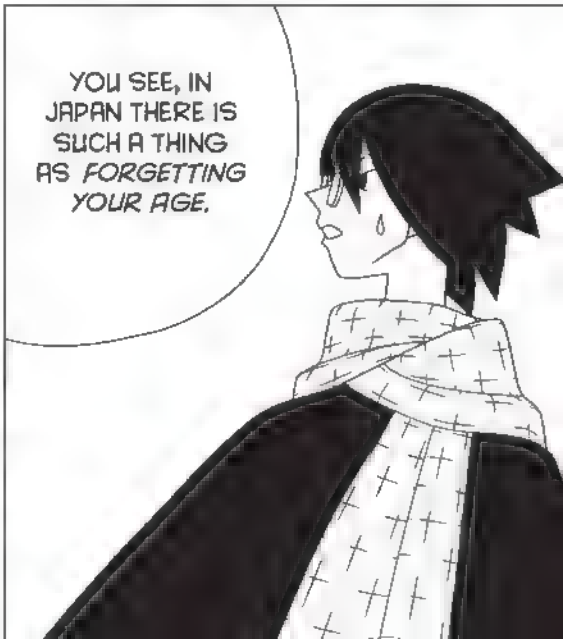
OR A THIRTY-EIGHT-YEAR-OLD SHOJO MANGA ARTIST WHO DRESSES UP IN LOLITA FASHION!

OR FATHERS WHO GO TO TANNING SALONS EVERY DAY!

LIKE MOTHERS WHO GO TO LIVE POWER RANGERS SHOWS WITHOUT THEIR KIDS!
Event Schedule

...FORGOTTEN HOW OLD THEY REALLY ARE.
EVERY-BODY'S...

DO YOU REALLY FEEL THAT WAY?
WHY SHOULDN'T OLDER PEOPLE BE ABLE TO DO THE SAME THINGS AS YOUNGER PEOPLE?
I DON'T SEE WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS.


YOU SEE, IN JAPAN THERE IS SUCH A THING AS FORGETTING YOUR AGE.

HE'S FORGOTTEN HOW OLD HE IS.
PROSTITU-TION!?

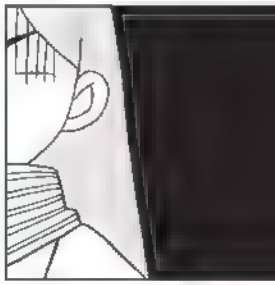
HEY, MISTER. HOW ABOUT A MASSAGE?
HEISEI GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

GOO GOO GA GA
SHE'S FORGOTTEN HOW OLD SHE IS!

THERE ARE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO FORGET THEIR AGE AS WELL.
HE'S FORGOTTEN HOW OLD HE IS TOO!

10 TEEN IDOL CAUGHT ON CAMERA.
SHOCKING, CAUGHT SMOKING...
HOT SCOOP!
ASOU IS RUMORED TO BE

EVERYBODY'S FORGOTTEN HOW OLD THEY REALLY ARE.
SHE'S FORGOT-TEN HOW OLD SHE IS.
A PHOTO OF AN UNDER-AGE IDOL SMOKING!



IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DOING IT ON PURPOSE.
QUIT ACTING LIKE YOU'RE MIDDLE-AGED.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR AGE TOO?

OR ACTOR KAZUKI ENARI'S EXTREMELY ACCURATE GOLF COMMENTARY!

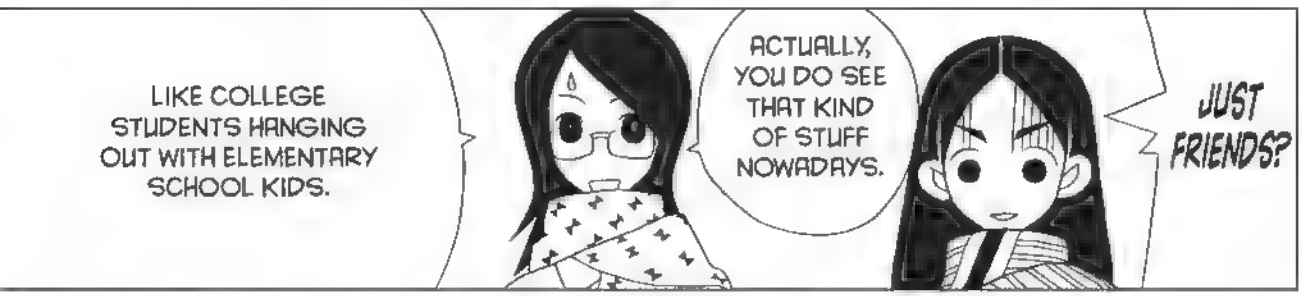
OR JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS WHO WORK AT HOSTESS CLUBS JUST SO THEY CAN MAKE ENOUGH TO GO TO HOST CLUBS.
10,000
10,000
10,000

LIKE ELEMEN-TARY SCHOOL GIRLS WHO HAVE BOY-FRIENDS!

PLENTY OF YOUNG PEOPLE FORGET HOW OLD THEY ARE.
SEE?!

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE TALENT, SENSEI.
OR A JUNIOR HIGH KID WHO DRAWS MANGA BETTER THAN A PRO.
OR A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD KID GETTING INTO HARVARD UNIVERSITY!
OR A TEENAGER WINNING THE AKUTAGAWA PRIZE FOR LITERATURE!

WE'RE JUST FRIENDS... WE MET ON AN INTERNET MESSAGE BOARD.
COMIC AND ANIME SHOP
MANGARARIN
TH-THAT'S A CRIME!


LIKE COLLEGE STUDENTS HANGING OUT WITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS.
ACTUALLY, YOU DO SEE THAT KIND OF STUFF NOWADAYS.
JUST FRIENDS?

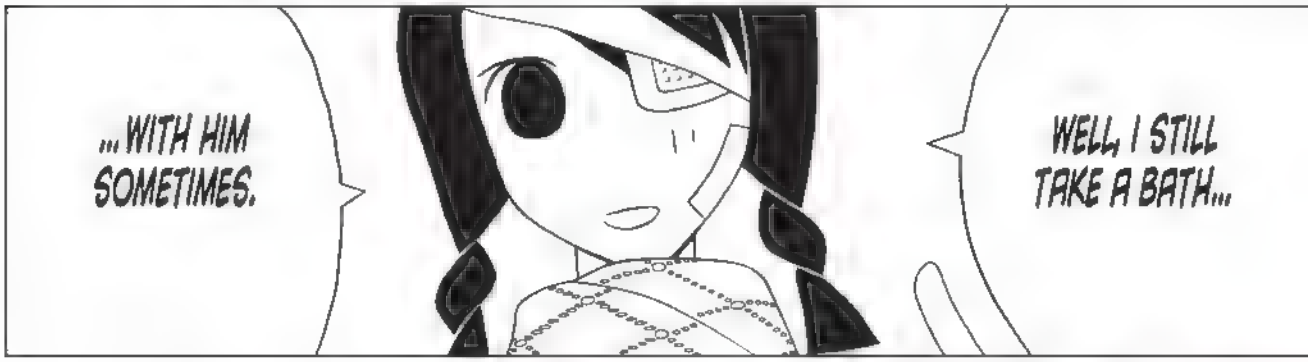
...TEND TO BE DRAWN TO ONE ANOTHER.
PEOPLE WHO'VE FORGOT-TEN THEIR AGES...
...THE NET HAS CHANGED EVERY-THING.
IN THE PAST A MEETING LIKE THAT COULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED, BUT...

JUST LEAVE IT THERE.
I BOUGHT THE STUFF YOU WANTED, KEN-CHAN.
HERE'S A PERFECT EXAMPLE.
SHINKO BOOKS
BOOKS

A PARENT WHO TAKES CARE OF A THIRTY-YEAR-OLD SLACKER.
I GOT YOU SOME COLA AND ICE CREAM.
COOL.
.....

MY DAD HASN'T FORGOTTEN HOW OLD HE IS, HAS HE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

TO PARENTS, A CHILD IS ALWAYS A CHILD.
THEY'VE BOTH FORGOTTEN HOW OLD THEY REALLY ARE!


...WITH HIM SOMETIMES.
WELL, I STILL TAKE A BATH...

BUT WE'RE FAMILY.
THAT'S REALLY NOT GOOD!
THAT'S NOT GOOD!

THUMP THUMP
THIS IS AS CLOSE AS I'LL EVER GET TO TAKING A BATH WITH ABIRU-CHAN.
WHO ARE YOU?

うわああああ
WAAHHH
AHH! I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!

- PRIME MINISTER KOIZUMI IS A FAN OF THE BAND X JAPAN
- ACTOR JUNICHI ISHIDA'S LOVE INTERESTS
- A FORMER MOTORCYCLE GANG MEMBER'S RECKLESS DRIVING
- BECOMING A MOTHER AT AGE FOURTEEN
- A MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY KISSING A NEWS ANCHOR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET
- IDOL MAKI GOTO'S BROTHER'S OBSESSION WITH HOSTESS CLUBS
- TOMAKOMAI, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GOING TO A BAR
- SINGER R**YA'S "OLDER" YOUNGER SISTER
- FIFTY-SOMETHING ACTOR HIROSHI TACHI PLAYING THE ROLE OF TWENTY-SOMETHING CHARACTER NOBUNAGA ODA
- FANS OF THE MANGA *CAPTAIN TSUBASA* GOING TO SEE THE *PRINCE OF TENNIS* MUSICAL
- TWENTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD ACTRESS MARI YAGUCHI PLAYING A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD IN THE TV DRAMA "GYARUSAA"
- THIRTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD ACTRESS SHOUKO AIDA PLAYING A TWENTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD IN THE MOVIE *RAINBOW SONG*
- VOICEOVER ARTIST KIKUKO INOUE IS SEVENTEEN YEARS AND 9,445 DAYS OLD
- JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WEARING THONG UNDERWEAR
- ME GETTING ON THE AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE GOING MERRY FROM THE MANGA *ONE PIECE*

YOUNG AND OLD PEOPLE ALIKE KEEP FORGETTING HOW OLD THEY REALLY ARE.

AH, OOKUSA-SAN.

SALE

100¥-

IT'S HOPE-LESS!

I'VE LOST ALL FAITH IN THIS COUNTRY, WHERE NOBODY CAN REMEMBER THEIR OWN AGE!

WOW, ARE YOU HELPING YOUR MOM SHOP?

NO, I'M SHOPPING FOR MY HUSBAND'S DINNER.

HUH?

I'M A HOUSEWIFE, SO I'M BUSY ALL THE TIME.

BYE.

DON'T SAY IT!

URRMPH

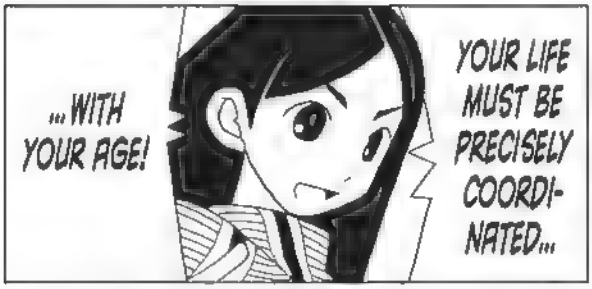
SHE'S FORGOT-TEN-

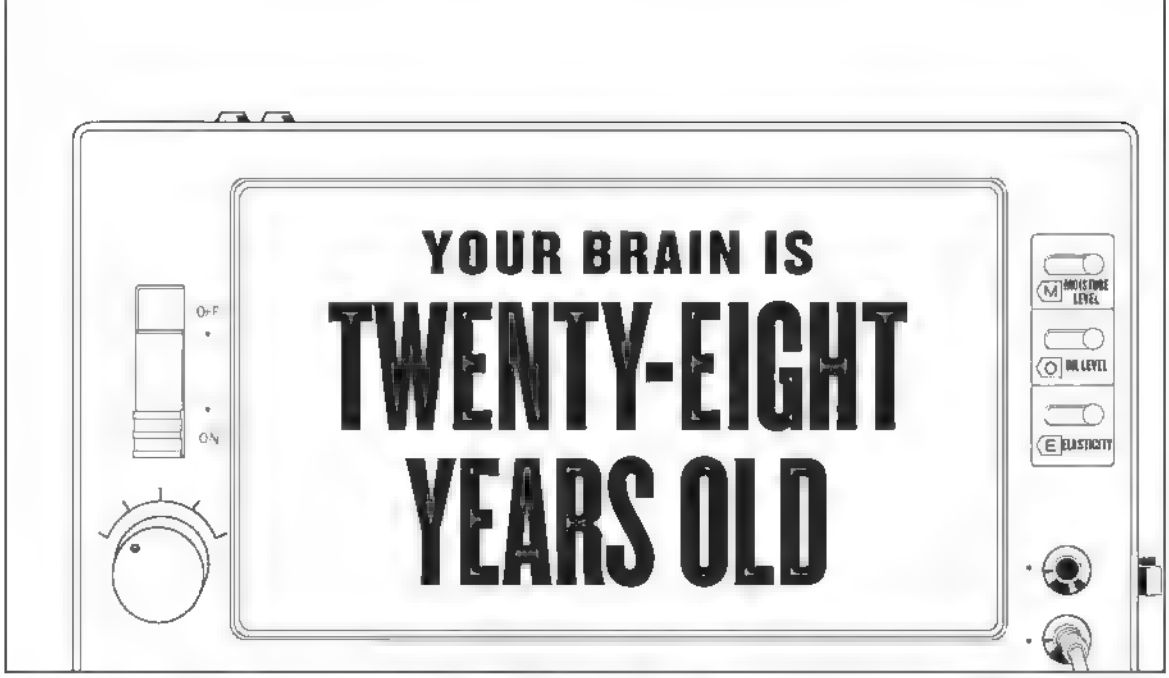
WAIT, DON'T GO!

ABSO-LUTELY SHOCK-ING!

I-I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING...
THAT KIND OF THING IS NORMAL IN AMERICA, AND THEY'RE DOING JUST FINE.
JUST BECAUSE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IS MARRIED, THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S FORGOTTEN HER AGE.
• IDOL AKI HOSHINO STILL HAS AN AMAZINGLY SEXY BODY AT AGE THIRTY
• BASEBALL PLAYER CHOUJI MURATA STILL THROWS A 100MPH FASTBALL EVEN AT AGE FIFTY
BESIDES, FORGETTING YOUR OWN AGE CAN BE A GOOD THING.
• SOCCER PLAYER TOMOKAZU MIURA'S FIGHTING SPIRIT
• A FORTY-YEAR-OLD BOXING CHAMP
• A MOUNTAINEER REACHING THE TOP OF MT. EVEREST AT AGE SEVENTY
• ACTOR CLINT EASTWOOD BECOMING A FATHER AT AGE SIXTY-SIX
• MANGA ARTIST YOSHIKAZU EBISU GETTING REMARRIED
IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER HOW OLD YOU ARE.
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT...
EVERYONE'S LIFE-STYLE SHOULD BE PRECISELY COORDINATED WITH THEIR OWN AGE.
IT'S ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPT-ABLE.
GRR
GRR
YOU GUYS ARE DRIVING ME CRAZY...
BEEP
?
TRY THIS, SENSEI. HOW OLD ARE YOU?
BUT YOU KNOW, AGE CAN HAVE DIFFERENT MEANINGS, CHIRI-CHAN.
I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO FORGET THEIR AGE!

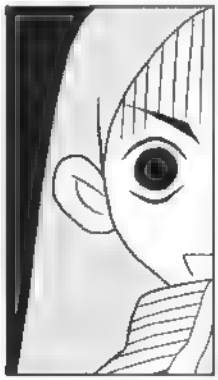
YOUR BRAIN IS FIFTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD

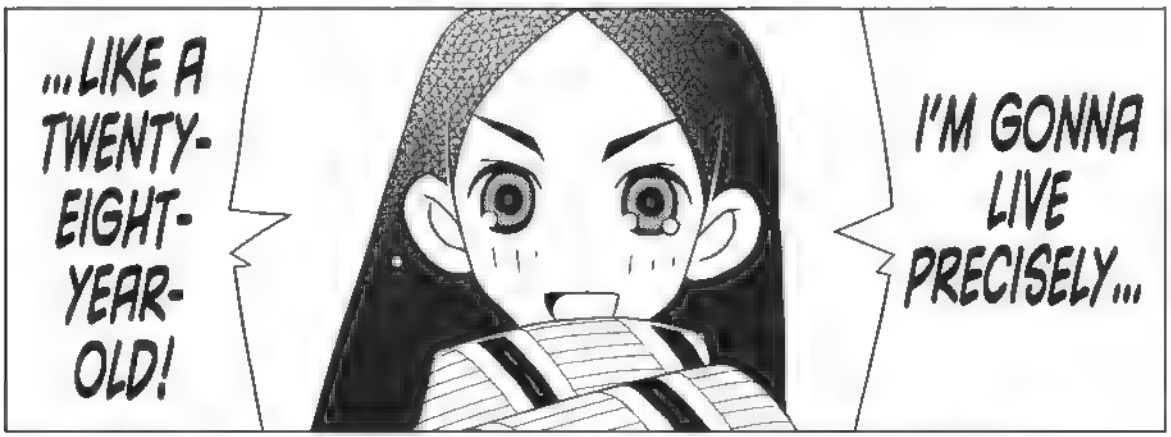


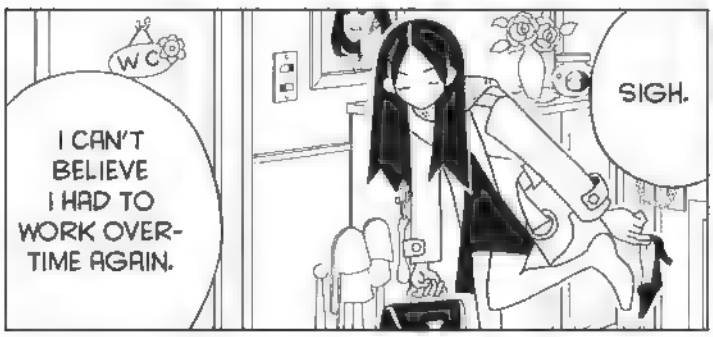

YOUR BRAIN IS
TWENTY-EIGHT
YEARS OLD
OFF
ON
M MOISTURE LEVEL
OIL LEVEL
E ELASTICITY

FORGETTING YOUR AGE IS ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPT-ABLE.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW OLD YOU ARE?
28 YEARS OLD



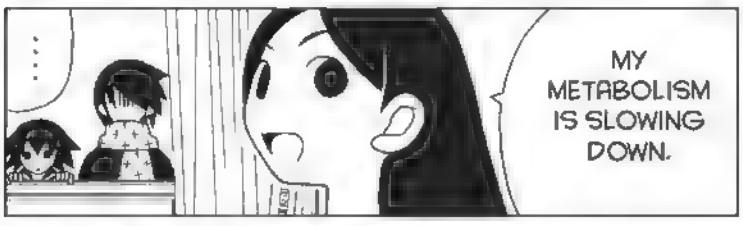

...LIKE A TWENTY-EIGHT-YEAR-OLD!
I'M GONNA LIVE PRECISELY...


WC
I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAD TO WORK OVER-TIME AGAIN.
SIGH.

WAIT, WHO AM I TALKING TO? I LIVE ALONE.
I'M HOME.

RING RING
KAZUO
I'M SO LONELY, IT'S PROBABLY RUBBING OFF ON YOU, HUH?
QUIT WORRYING, THERE'RE PLENTY OF GUYS IN MY LIFE.
NOT AGAIN... WILL YOU STOP TRYING TO SET ME UP?
HELLO?
HI, MOM.
...A SINGLE GUY IN MY LIFE.
THERE'S NOT...
CLICK
BEEP
I KNOW, I'LL LISTEN TO SOME MIKI IMAI.
I LIKE MY BOSS, BUT HE'S MARRIED, AND THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA BE HIS MISTRESS.
YAWN
THERE'S GOTTA BE A SPECIAL GUY SOMEWHERE OUT THERE.
OH YEAH, I FORGOT I ORDERED THAT.
PACKAGE.
DING-DONG

-YOU GOTTA BELIEVE IN YOU!
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP WHEN THINGS ARE FALLING APART...
I KEEP ASKING...
WHY CAN'T I BE TRUE TO MYSELF?
ウィーン
CREAK
ウィーン
CREAK
カト
ガクシイ
HOBBY
POOH
沖縄


MY METABOLISM IS SLOWING DOWN.
……

IS THAT HER IDEA OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE TWENTY-EIGHT?
HOW SAD.

CREAK
ウィーン

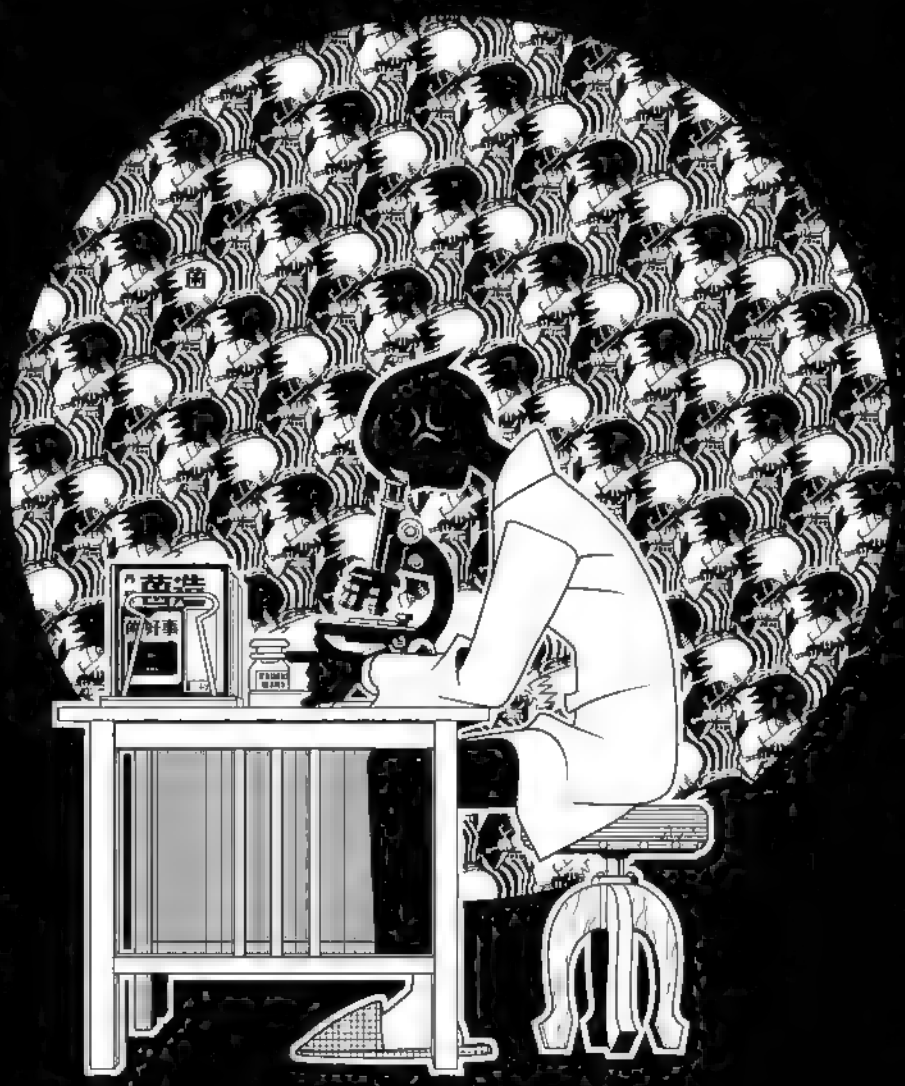
ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

ATTENDANCE NO. 16

MANAMI OOKUSA

HIGH SCHOOL HOUSEWIFE - IN SERIOUS DEBT

MATASABUROU GETS A COLD



CHAPTER 75

1
COUGH.
2
COUGH.
FINAL EXAM
3
DEEP STAGNATION
4

IS IT TIME TO CLOSE THE SCHOOL YET?
WE'D BETTER TAKE ACTION...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SECRET BANK ACCOUNT
MY LITTLE SECRET
BLOG THAT HASN'T BEEN UPDATED
MATSU-MOTO AIRPORT
DOG PARK
WONDER VALLEY YUUBAR
...BEFORE THIS VIRUS SPREADS!
...THAT SPREAD FROM PERSON TO PERSON.
YOU KNOW, COLDS AREN'T THE ONLY KIND OF VIRUSES...

THE DRAWINGS HAVE NO CORRELATION WITH THE TEXT.

THIS TIME OF YEAR... WHEN YOUR HEART IS DRY AND YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM IS WEAK...
...IT'S VERY EASY TO GET INFECTED.
YOU COULD CATCH SOMEONE'S WEIRD WAY OF GESTURING.
UH-HUH.
UH-HUH.
...OR YOU MIGHT CATCH SOMEONE ELSE'S WAY OF TALKING.
OR YOU COULD GET INFECTED BY SOME STRANGE FASHION TREND.
WHEN ONE PERSON GETS INFECTED...
...IT CAN QUICKLY SPREAD ACROSS THE WHOLE CLASSROOM.
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR.

AND THEN ANOTHER...
THEN ANOTHER STUDENT TRIED IT.

SIZZLE
SIZZLE
ONE STUDENT STARTED COOKING A PIECE OF TANGERINE ON THE GRILL OF THE HEATER.

...IT BECAME A HUGE TREND!
SIZZLE
SIZZLE

SOON THE WHOLE CLASSROOM WAS INFECTED, AND...

SAVING YOUR TANGERINE FROM LUNCH AND EATING IT DURING FIFTH PERIOD.
MAKING SCULPTURES WITH PUTTY ERASERS.
THROUGH THE WINDOW.
EXITING CLASS
THERE ARE OTHER CASES OF CLASSROOM EPIDEMICS TOO.

EXACTLY, AND THOSE CLASSROOM TRENDS HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CORRELATION WITH WHAT IS TRENDY IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

THE POPULARITY OF THOSE WEIRD TRENDS WAS CONFINED TO OUR CLASS-ROOM.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

WATCH OUT!
SCHWIP

!!

!
First Love Sick
...COULD SUDDENLY BECOME ALL THE RAGE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE CLASS-ROOM.
AN OBSCURE POPULAR MANGA...
OH YEAH... THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED A WHILE BACK...
I BORROWED A MANGA CALLED DARK HUNTER FROM MY BROTHER AND BROUGHT IT TO SCHOOL ONE DAY.
DID YOU BRING THE NEXT VOLUME?
DARK HUNTER
AND FOR SOME STRANGE REASON IT BECAME A HUGE HIT JUST WITHIN MY CLASS.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
IT HAPPENS ALL AROUND US.
AND SOME-TIMES...
...YOU CAN BECOME INFECTED...
...WITHOUT EVEN BEING AWARE OF IT.
♪ニャカニャカ
LA LA LA
ニャカニャカ♪

THAT'S A SHOGO HAMADA RINGTONE...

IF I HADN'T CAUGHT THIS, IN THREE DAYS' TIME EVERYONE IN THIS WHOLE CLASS...
THAT WAS CLOSE!

ばっ
FWIP
WHAT'RE YOU THINKING? HOW DARE YOU BRING SUCH AN INFECTIOUS VIRUS TO CLASS!

I REALLY DON'T THINK THAT WOULD HAPPEN.
MONEY
...WOULD HAVE A SHOGO HAMADA RINGTONE.

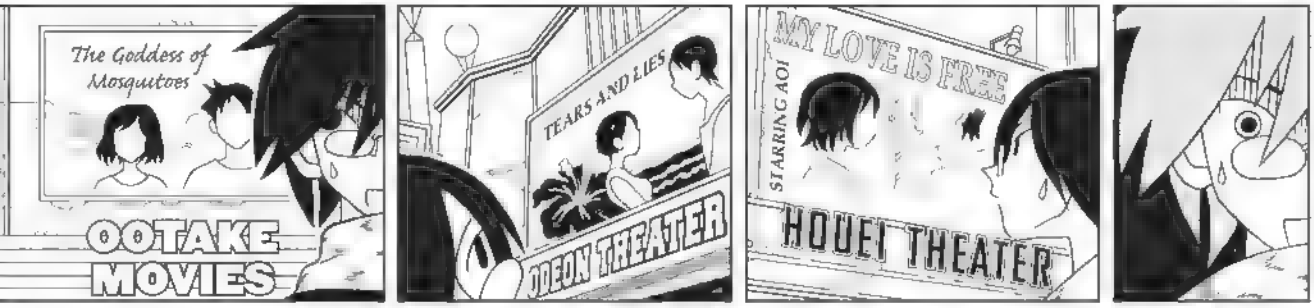
• THE THEME SONG FOR THE CONVENIENCE STORE FAMILY MART
• THE FOLK SONG "TOORYANSE" PLAYING AT CROSSWALKS
• THE THEME SONGS FOR ELECTRONICS STORES SATO MUSEN AND ONDREN IN AKIHABARA
• THE THEME SONG FOR BIC CAMERA IN IKEBUKURO
• THE THEME FROM THE ANIME HIMITSU NO AKKO-CHAN PLAYING AT THE OUME TRAIN LINE'S OUME STATION
HERE ARE SOME OTHER HIGHLY INFECTIOUS SONGS YOU MIGHT HEAR AROUND TOWN.

...THEIR THEME SONG GETS STUCK IN YOUR HEAD ALL DAY LONG!
SOMETIMES YOU'RE JUST PASSING BY AN ELECTRONICS STORE AND...

EVERYBODY PLEASE GO HOME IMMEDIATELY!
WHAT?
KEEP OU

...IN ORDER TO KEEP THESE DANGEROUS VIRAL INFECTIONS FROM SPREADING!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STOP CLASS...

JUST BECAUSE WE'RE OUTSIDE DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE SAFE.
CAFE
TEA
CAFE BELLA CORONA
HUBUKI
GAME ARCADE
KOISHIKAWA SHOPPING
WAIT!


The Goddess of Mosquitoes
OOTAKE MOVIES
TEARS AND LIES
TOEON THEATER
MY LOVE IS FREE
STARRING AOI
HOUEI THEATER

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A REAL VIRUS!
THEY'RE INFECTED BY A VIRUS THAT LEADS TO CERTAIN DEATH!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEY'RE INFECTED!

OH, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MOVIE STORY-LINES.
THE WHOLE FILM INDUSTRY HAS BEEN INFECTED, AND ALL THEY MAKE ARE MOVIES ABOUT DEATH!
IT'S A VIRUS THAT KILLS OFF THE MAIN CHARACTER AT THE END OF THE MOVIE.

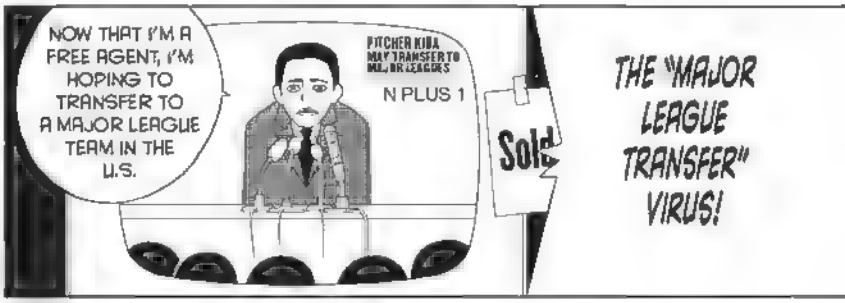
...INFECT ALL OF THE NEW TV DRAMAS THAT START THIS FALL.
ONLY ONE LOVE
MY PATH
THE HALF-MOON
THE FRIGHTENING THING IS THAT THIS "DEATH VIRUS" COULD MUTATE AND...
...IT ALWAYS STARTS A TREND.
WHEN ONE THING GETS POPULAR...
I WONDER IF HE GOT INFECTED WHILE HE WAS IN HOLLYWOOD.
SPEAKING OF MOVIES... DON'T YOU THINK KEN WATANABE'S BEEN ACTING LIKE AN AMERICAN THESE DAYS?

...LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW.
UH...
...THE OTHER MAGAZINES GET INFECTED AND START PUBLISHING OTHER STORIES OF THE SAME GENRE.
SHONEN ZUMP
SUNJAY
THANKS FOR THE BIG HIT
IT HAPPENS IN THE MANGA WORLD TOO. WHEN A CERTAIN MANGA GETS POPULAR IN ONE MAGAZINE...

Sold
HE'S INFECTED BY A VIRUS TOO.

SHHH! THEY'RE GONNA GET MAD AT US!
LUCKILY, WE'RE NOT LIKELY TO SET OFF ANY TRENDS.

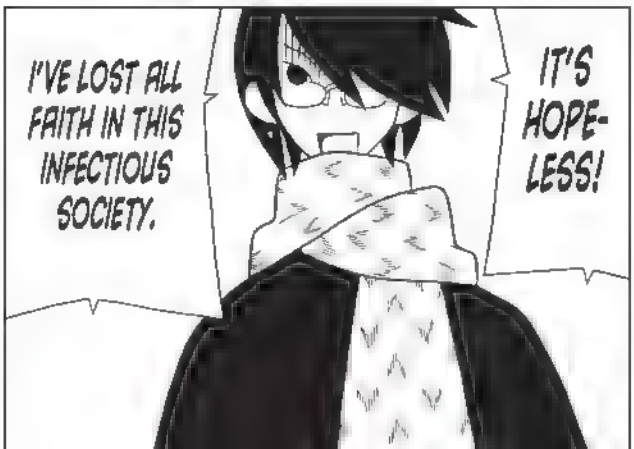
...THE INFECTION QUICKLY SPREADS.
WOBBLE
ONCE ONE PLAYER GETS INFECTED...

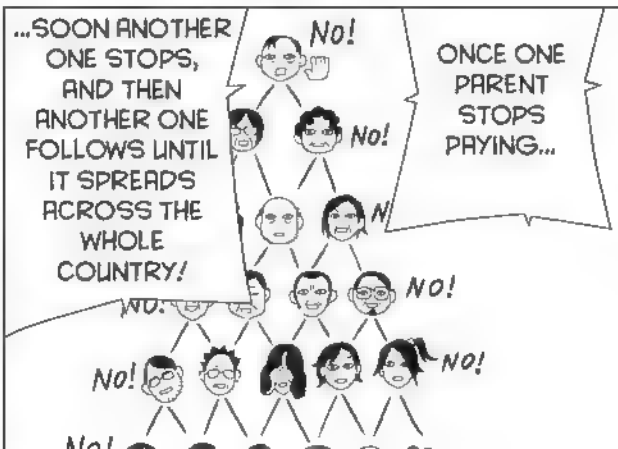

NOW THAT I'M A FREE AGENT, I'M HOPING TO TRANSFER TO A MAJOR LEAGUE TEAM IN THE U.S.
PITCHER KIDA MAY TRANSFER TO MAJOR LEAGUERS
N PLUS 1
Sold
THE "MAJOR LEAGUE TRANSFER" VIRUS!

WE'LL HAVE TO CREATE A VACCINE USING ANTIBODIES FROM NORI NAKAMURA, WHO FAILED AS SOON AS HE TRANSFERRED TO THE MAJORS.
KEEP OUT
IF THIS KEEPS UP, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO SHUT DOWN JAPANESE PRO BASEBALL!

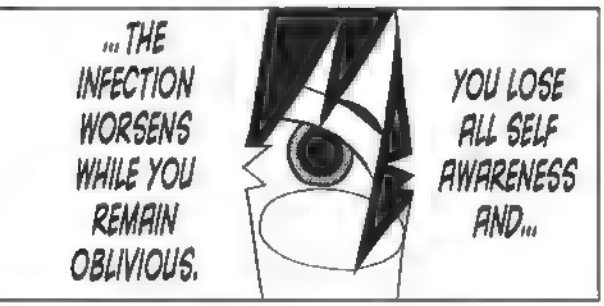
IT'S THE "I'M NOT PAYING MY KID'S LUNCH MONEY" VIRUS.

WHAT IS IT?
PACHINKO
AND THAT GUY IS INFECTED BY ANOTHER TYPE OF VIRUS!


I'VE LOST ALL FAITH IN THIS INFECTIOUS SOCIETY.
IT'S HOPE-LESS!

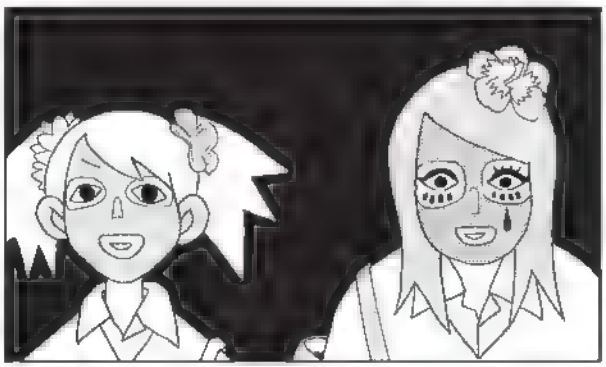

...SOON ANOTHER ONE STOPS, AND THEN ANOTHER ONE FOLLOWS UNTIL IT SPREADS ACROSS THE WHOLE COUNTRY!
No!
No!
ONCE ONE PARENT STOPS PAYING...
NO!
No!
NO!
No!

CHIBITA ODEN FESTIVAL
WHEN YOU BELONG TO A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY...
...YOU OFTEN DON'T EVEN REALIZE THAT YOU'VE BEEN INFECTED.


...THE INFECTION WORSENS WHILE YOU REMAIN OBLIVIOUS.
YOU LOSE ALL SELF AWARENESS AND...

• YAWNING
• MISSING PENALTY KICKS
• JUMPING THE GUN AT THE BEGINNING OF A 100 M RACE
• DOPING ATHLETES
• OVERLY DRAMATIC COVERAGE OF SPORTING EVENTS ON TV
• BUSINESSES TARGETING OTAKU
• THE RUNNING STRATEGY THAT'S POPULAR AMONG J LEAGUE SOCCER TEAMS
• USING INTERNET LANGUAGE IN REGULAR CONVERSATION (LIKE OMG OR LOL)
• WHEN ONE PERSON THROWS TRASH IN SOMEONE'S BICYCLE BASKET, IT QUICKLY BECOMES A GARBAGE BIN
• WHEN ONE CAR PARKS ILLEGALLY ON THE STREET, OTHERS SOON FOLLOW
• THE NHK SCANDAL
• NOT PAYING NHK DUES
• SELLING DISH SOAP THROUGH MULTILEVEL MARKETING
• THE LIFESTYLE IN NEIGHBORHOODS ON THE DENENTOSHI LINE
MIZONOGUCHI → TAMA PLAZA → FUTABADAI
THERE ARE SO MANY INFECTIOUS THINGS OUT THERE.

I WENT FOR THE NATURAL LOOK TODAY, CAN YOU TELL?
DO YOU THINK I PUT ON TOO MUCH MAKEUP TODAY?
.....



...THE LADIES AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE MAKEUP COUNTERS ALL WEAR EXACTLY THE SAME STYLE OF MAKEUP.
OSE1
THEY MIGHT NOT BE QUITE AS OBVIOUS BUT...

THEY ACTUALLY THINK THEY LOOK NORMAL.
THAT'S THE "TOO MUCH MAKEUP" VIRUS!

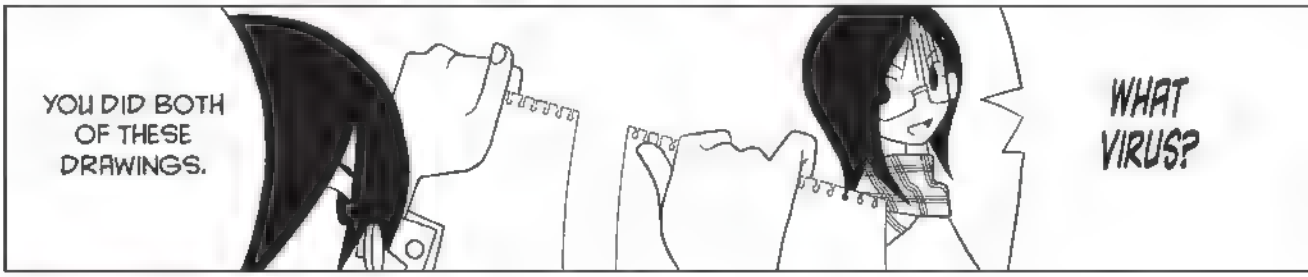
KAKASU CLINIC
Reception
BAKAS
.....

WELL, THAT'S A FAIRLY BENIGN VIRUS.
THERE ARE FAR MORE SERIOUS INFECTIONS OUT THERE!
KAKASU CLINIC
INTERNAL MEDICINE
2F

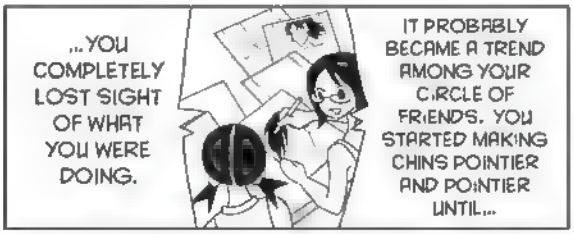
BY TRYING TO MAKE THEMSELVES BEAUTIFUL, THEY END UP LOOKING EXACTLY THE SAME.

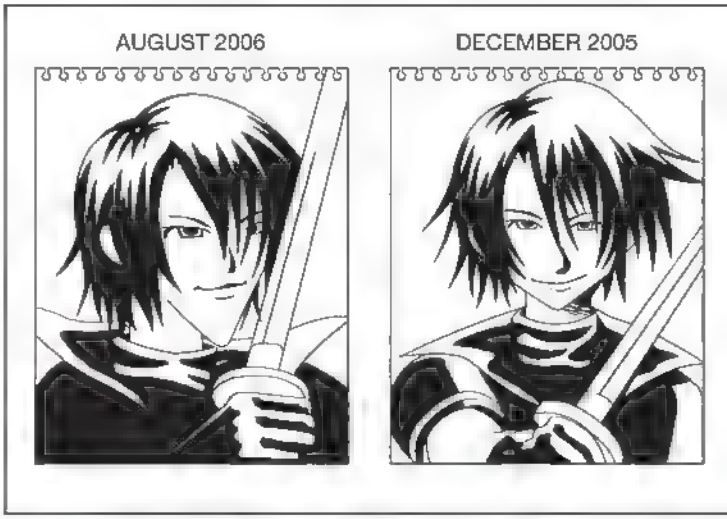
THEY'RE INFECTED BY THE "SAME FACE" VIRUS!
ALL THE NURSES AT THE PLASTIC SURGEON'S OFFICE HAVE THE EXACT SAME FACE!

YOU'VE BEEN INFECTED BY A VIRUS YOURSELF.
YOU KNOW WHAT, FUJISAKI-SAN?
HOW SCARY.


YOU DID BOTH OF THESE DRAWINGS.
WHAT VIRUS?

YOU'RE INFECTED BY THE "POINTY CHIN" VIRUS!

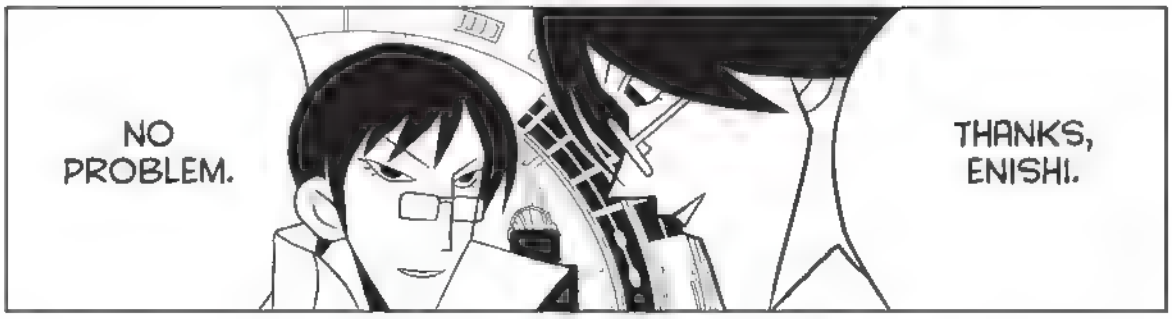

...YOU COMPLETELY LOST SIGHT OF WHAT YOU WERE DOING.
IT PROBABLY BECAME A TREND AMONG YOUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS. YOU STARTED MAKING CHINS POINTIER AND POINTIER UNTIL...


AUGUST 2006
DECEMBER 2005

NOT AT ALL. YOU LOOK REALLY HANDSOME.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'D BE WEIRD IF I LOOKED LIKE THIS?

OR THE MORALITY OF PEOPLE WHO COMMENT ON MESSAGE BOARDS.
PERVERTS PARADISE
1 GROPING A WOMAN IS
2 INNOCENT REFUSE
3 "KYO LIKE WOMEN ARE JUST WAITING TO BE
4 I SEE SO THAT S THE OK SIGN.
5 IF WOMEN DON'T WANT TO GET GROPED, THEY SHOULDN'T RIDE THE TRAIN
6 YAY, I'M GONNA GO GIVE IT A TRY.
7 ME TOO.
8 ME TOO.
LIKE THAT ONE I.T. COMPANY'S OUTRAGEOUS TRADING!
Market Capitalization 828 Billion
WE'LL DO THE SAME.
GO LONG AND INVEST BIG!
THE INFECTION CAN SPREAD OUT OF CONTROL WITHOUT ANYBODY NOTICING.
THE SMALLER THE COMMUNITY, THE GREATER THE DANGER.
OH NO, NOZOMU- WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
HEY, ENISHI!
IT'S THE "LAZY GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRAT" VIRUS!
THERE'S A TERRIBLE AIRBORNE VIRUS AND IT'S SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE.
AN AIRBORNE VIRUS?
WE'VE GOTTA HEAD FOR THE SKIES!
GET IN!
YOU'RE EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT TOO, NOZOMU! YOU COULD GET INFECTED NEXT.
だら〜 LAZY
EVEN THE HIGHLY MOTIVATED NEW EMPLOYEES ARE GETTING INFECTED AND TURNING INTO SLACKERS.
IT'S A TERRIFYING VIRUS THAT CAN INFECT ANY EMPLOYEE WHO WALKS INTO A GOVERNMENT OFFICE.

THAT WAS CLOSE.


NO PROBLEM.
THANKS, ENISHI.

THE WHOLE CITY WILL BE SHUT DOWN, AND THE AMERICAN MILITARY WILL HAVE TO BLOW IT UP WITH A GIANT MISSILE.
SHUFFLE
わら
SHUFFLE
わら
LOOK, THE INFECTION HAS COMPLETELY TAKEN OVER.

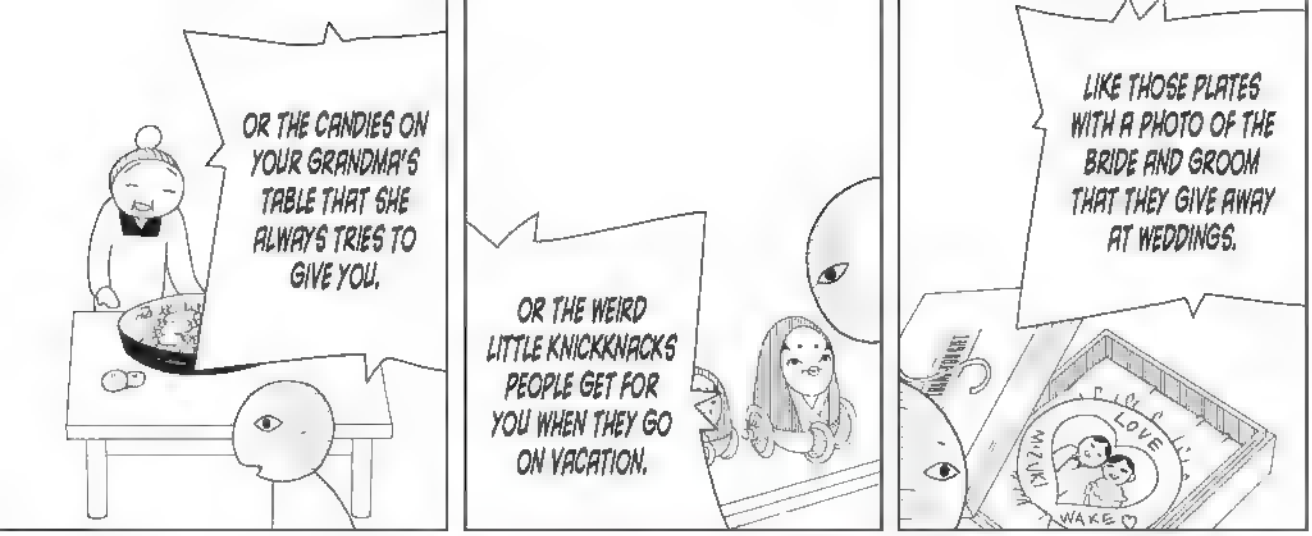
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW JAPAN.
TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE A NEW WORLD.
WE'RE THE SOLE SURVIVORS NOW.

WAH.

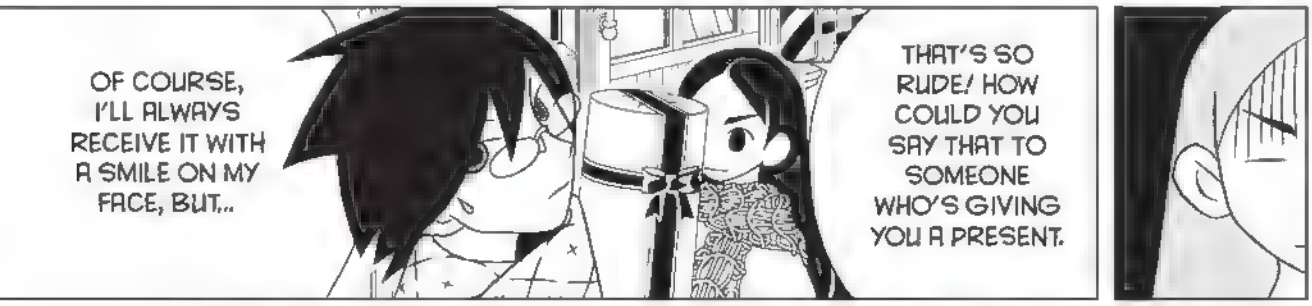
CHAPTER 76

中谷旅行店
Xmas SALE
WOW, THAT LOOKS LIKE A HEAVY LOAD YOU'VE GOT THERE.
...AT OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY.
WE'RE EXCHANGING PRESENTS...
PRESENTS, HUH?
HMMM...
YOU SHOULD JOIN US, SENSEI.

WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF YOU COULD JUST SAY "NO THANKS"?
HUH?
DON'T YOU WANT PRESENTS?
WELL...
...SURE, IF IT'S SOMETHING I HAPPEN TO NEED, BUT...
MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, YOU END UP..
...GETTING STUCK WITH THINGS THAT YOU REALLY DON'T WANT.

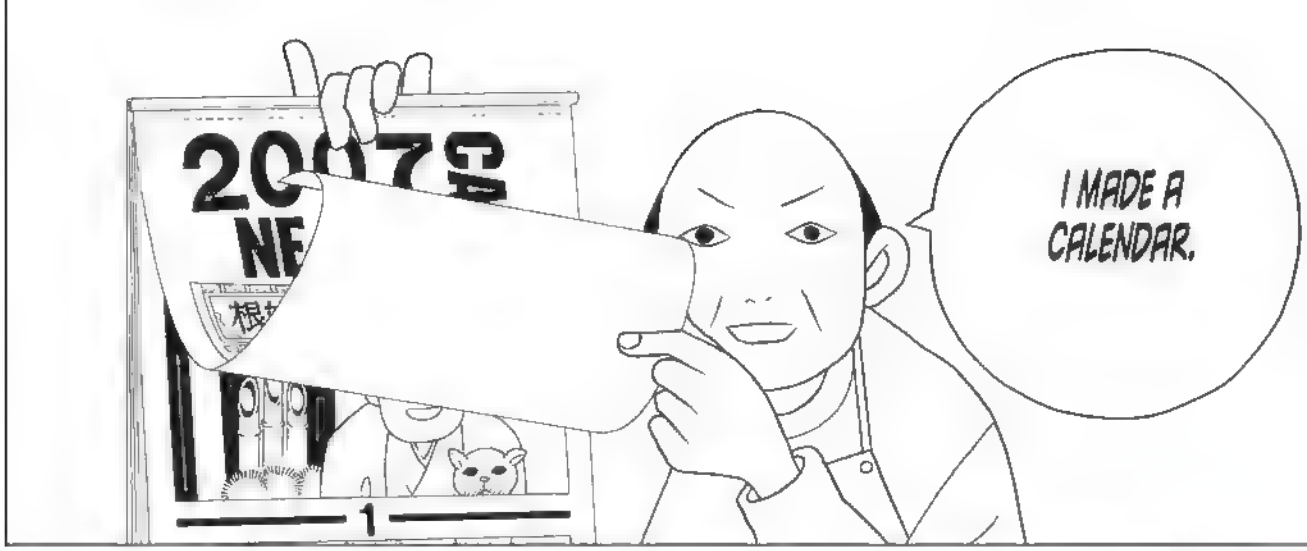

OR THE CANDIES ON YOUR GRANDMA'S TABLE THAT SHE ALWAYS TRIES TO GIVE YOU.
OR THE WEIRD LITTLE KNICKKNACKS PEOPLE GET FOR YOU WHEN THEY GO ON VACATION.
LIKE THOSE PLATES WITH A PHOTO OF THE BRIDE AND GROOM THAT THEY GIVE AWAY AT WEDDINGS.
LOVE
MIZUKI
WAKE

...IF YOU COULD JUST SAY "NO THANKS."
HOW WONDERFUL WOULD IT BE...


OF COURSE, I'LL ALWAYS RECEIVE IT WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE, BUT...
THAT'S SO RUDE! HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT TO SOMEONE WHO'S GIVING YOU A PRESENT.

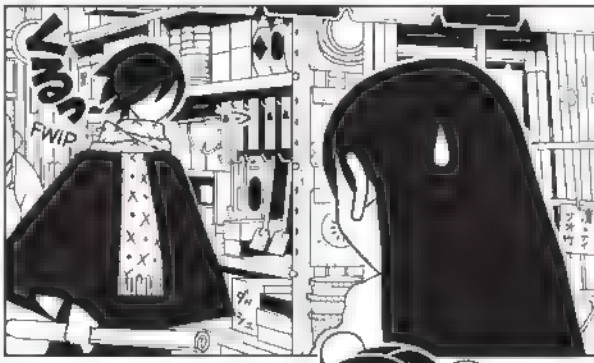
HOW WONDERFUL WOULD IT BE IF I COULD JUST SAY "NO THANKS."
...THE TRUTH IS...I DON'T WANT IT.

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
がさごそ
OH YEAH, I'VE GOT SOME-THING FOR YOU.
HELLO, SENSEI.
根端金物店
NEKOBATA HARDWARE STORE

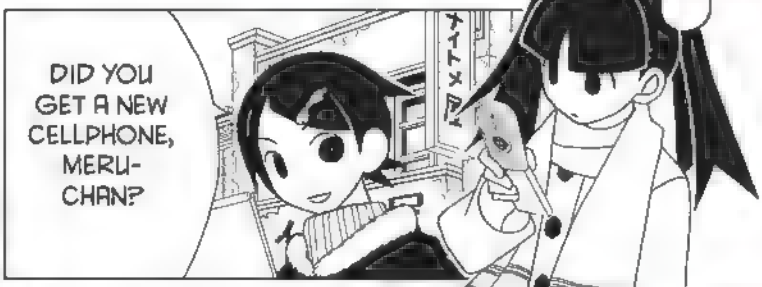

I MADE A CALENDAR.
1

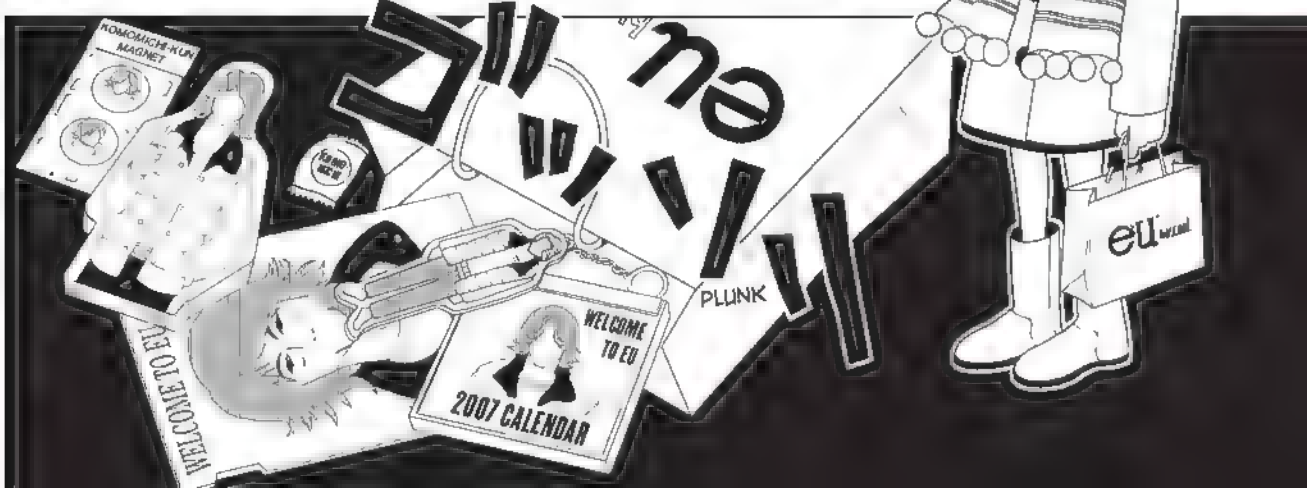
SURE, GO AHEAD.
WOW! HOW NICE. REALLY? I CAN HAVE THIS?

...IF I COULD JUST SAY "NO THANKS!"
HOW WONDERFUL WOULD IT BE...

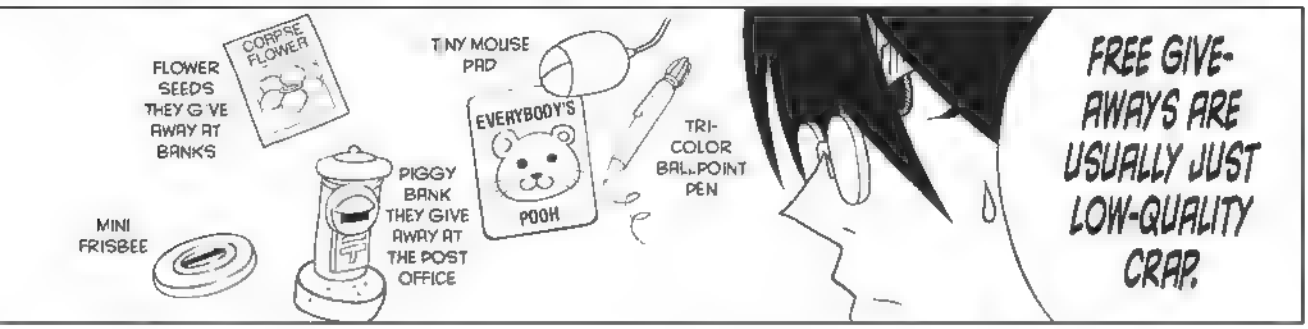

FWIP

FWISH


DID YOU GET A NEW CELLPHONE, MERU-CHAN?

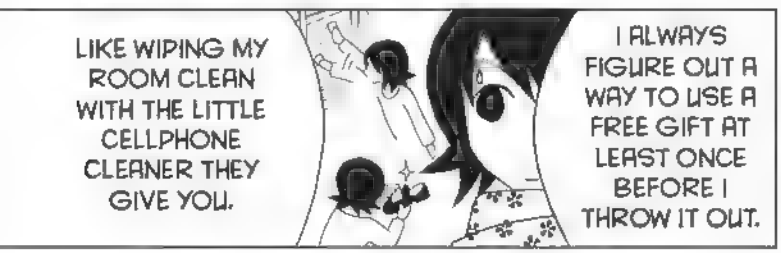

ROMOMICHI-KUN MAGNET
WELCOME TO EU
2007 CALENDAR
PLUNK

NOBODY REALLY WANTS THE GIFT BAG YOU GET WHEN YOU BUY A NEW CELL-PHONE.
I DON'T NEED THIS JUNK.


FLOWER SEEDS THEY G VE AWAY AT BANKS
CORPSE FLOWER
TINY MOUSE PAD
EVERYBODY'S POOH
TRI-COLOR BALL-POINT PEN
PIGGY BANK THEY GIVE AWAY AT THE POST OFFICE
MINI FRISBEE
FREE GIVE-AWAYS ARE USUALLY JUST LOW-QUALITY CRAP.

...YOU FEEL OBLIGATED TO KEEP IT AROUND FOR A WHILE.
AND WHEN YOU GET HOME, YOU FEEL BAD THROWING AWAY SOME-THING THAT'S BRAND-NEW, SO...

THERE AREN'T MANY JAPANESE PEOPLE WHO CAN SAY "NO THANKS" WHEN THEY HEAR THAT PHRASE UTTERED.
IT'S REALLY NOTHING SPECIAL, BUT...
WAH.
WHENEVER PEOPLE GIVE YOU SOMETHING, THEY ALWAYS SAY, "IT'S REALLY NOTHING SPECIAL, BUT..." AND AS SOON AS WE HEAR THOSE WORDS WE'LL ACCEPT WHAT-EVER IS COMING.


LIKE WIPING MY ROOM CLEAN WITH THE LITTLE CELLPHONE CLEANER THEY GIVE YOU.
I ALWAYS FIGURE OUT A WAY TO USE A FREE GIFT AT LEAST ONCE BEFORE I THROW IT OUT.

...AND YOU DECIDE THAT IT'S FINALLY OKAY TO TOSS IT OUT.
PHEW
ONE DAY YOU FIND IT COVERED IN DUST...

...YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO KEEP IT AROUND ALL YEAR, EVEN THOUGH YOU NEVER LOOK AT IT.
WHEN SOMEONE GIVES YOU A CALENDAR...

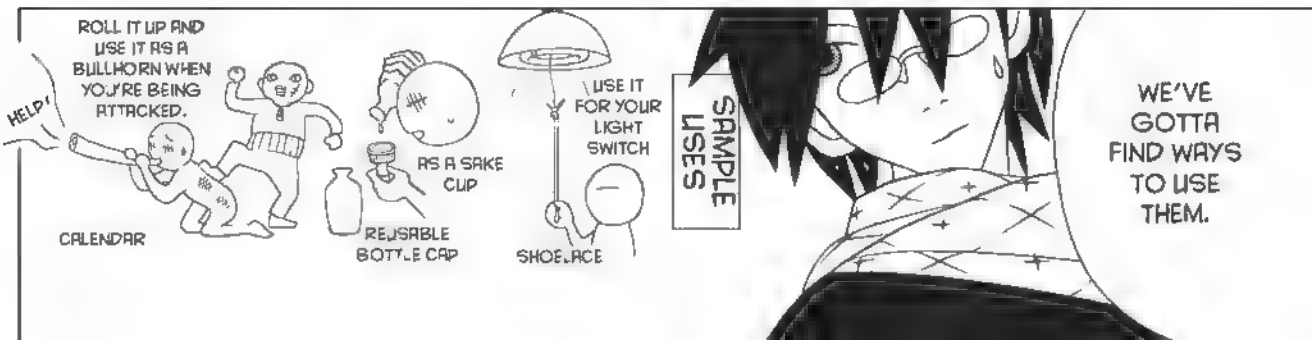
WELL, THIS THING'S NO GOOD ANYMORE.
AND WHEN THE YEAR ENDS, YOU FINALLY GET TO THROW IT OUT.

I FELT BAD, SO I BLEW ON IT ONCE BEFORE I THREW IT AWAY.
YEAH, ONCE I GOT A FREE WHISTLE FOR SOME-THING.
ぴょろ～
TWEET

OR THE POSTERS THAT COME WITH CDS!
OR THOSE LAME PRIZES THAT COME WITH BOTTLES OF SODA AND JUICE.
LIKE THE BUTTONS AND SHOELACES THAT COME WITH MAGAZINES!
...FORCED TO ACCEPT THINGS THAT WE DON'T NEED!
ANYWAY, WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE WE ARE CONSTANTLY...
FREE KEYCHAIN
REUSABLE BOTTLE CAP
ORIGINAL SHOELACE
GIANT BUTTON
BONUS
NO WAR

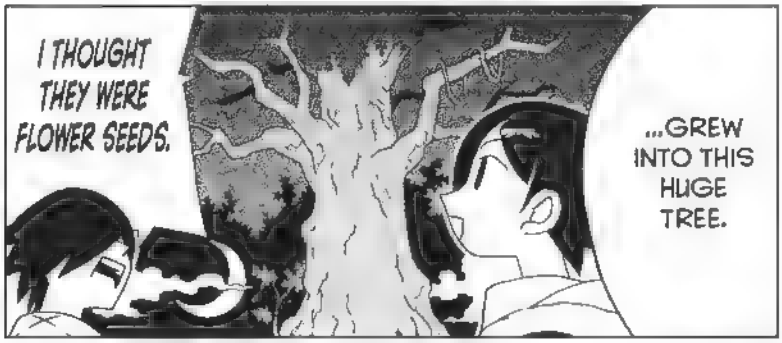
- NUDE PLAYING CARDS
- BEACH BALLS THAT COME WITH MAGAZINES
- CD BONUS TRACKS (INSTRUMENTAL KARAOKE VERSIONS)
- ONIGIRI RICE BALL FIGURES THAT COME WITH DVDS
- BABY HAMSTERS THAT PET OWNERS CAN'T GET RID OF
- THE FREE BOOK COVERS THAT MANGA STORES ALWAYS GIVE OUT
- SOFTWARE THAT COMES PRE-INSTALLED ON YOUR COMPUTER
- FRAGMENTS OF USED UNDERWEAR THAT CAME WITH THE KANOU SISTERS' PHOTO BOOK
- TEA LEAVES THAT COME WITH BOTTLED TEA (WHY WOULD YOU BUY BOTTLED TEA IF YOU HAD TIME TO BREW IT FROM SCRATCH?)
- THE "MOST POPULAR CATCH PHRASE OF THE YEAR" AWARD FOR COMEDIANS

...GIVING A THOUGHT TO WHAT THE CONSUMERS MIGHT ACTUALLY WANT.
FREE GIFTS
Slippers
Figurine
CHIRP
CHIRP
I CAN IMAGINE THE MANUFACTURERS LAUGHING IT UP AS THEY DESIGN THIS STUFF WITHOUT EVEN...


HELP!
ROLL IT UP AND USE IT AS A BULLHORN WHEN YOU'RE BEING ATTACKED.
CALENDAR
AS A SAKE CUP
REUSABLE BOTTLE CAP
USE IT FOR YOUR LIGHT SWITCH
SHOELACE
SAMPLE USES
WE'VE GOTTA FIND WAYS TO USE THEM.

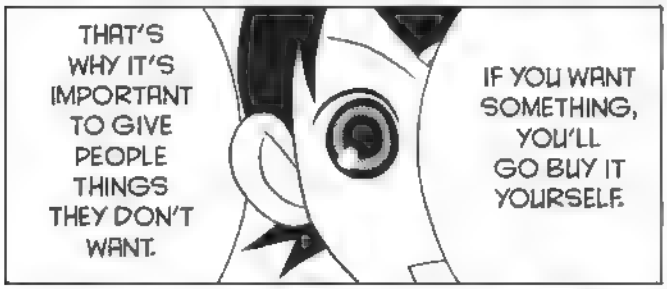
LET'S STICK IT ON RIGHT HERE.
WHY DO THAT?
NO WAR
HOW CAN WE USE THIS?
WAH!
BANG
ばん
NO WAR
THE SENSEI'S BEEN SHOT!
THIS BUTTON SAVED YOUR LIFE.
NO WAR
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS BUTTON, YOU'D BE DEAD.
... SHOT ME?
WAIT A SEC, WHO THE HECK...
和夢
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT'LL EVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
YOU STILL DON'T WANT IT?

EVERYTHING HAS ITS USE.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A USELESS GIFT.


I THOUGHT THEY WERE FLOWER SEEDS.
...GREW INTO THIS HUGE TREE.

THE SEEDS THAT I GOT AT THE BANK...
AGAVE

A FOREST?
...AND MAKE THE WORLD GREEN AGAIN.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
ざわわ...
SOON THEY WILL MULTIPLY INTO A FOREST...


THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO GIVE PEOPLE THINGS THEY DON'T WANT.
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING, YOU'LL GO BUY IT YOURSELF.

PEOPLE JUST HAVEN'T REALIZED THEIR TRUE VALUE YET.
IT'S NOT THAT THE GIFTS ARE USELESS.

WHY DON'T YOU BECOME SANTA, AND GIVE AWAY PRESENTS THAT PEOPLE WON'T WANT.
たんぽ
HERE YOU GO.
OF COURSE!
オムガリヤ

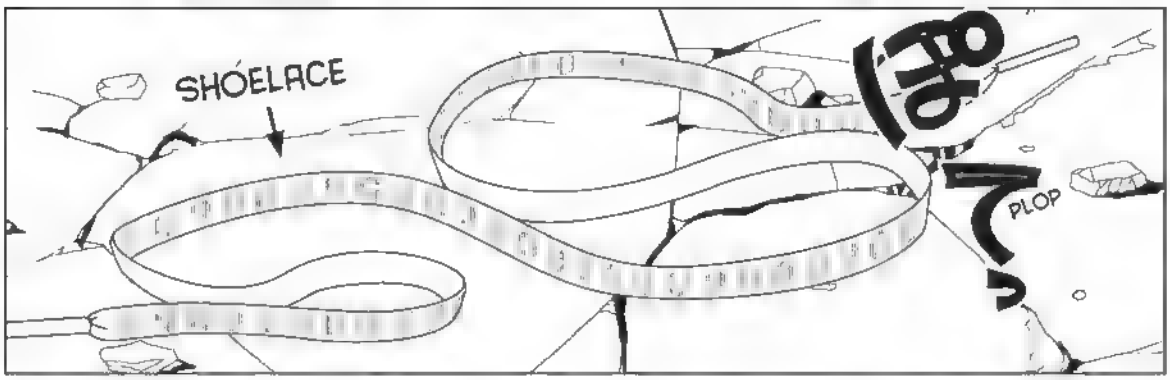
ぽろっ
DRIP

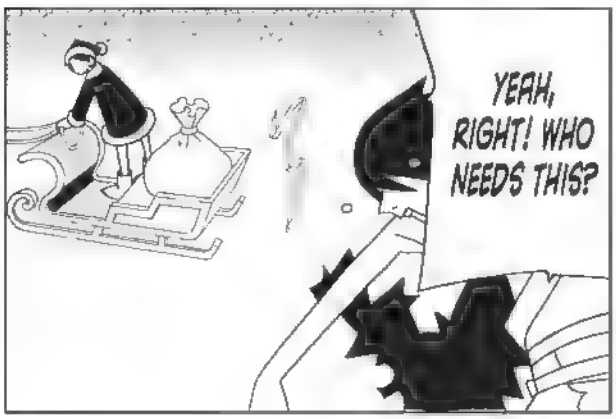
MERRY XMAS!!
I DON'T WANT THIS!
GOOD FORTUNE
BAD LUCK
I DON'T WANT THIS!
BONUS FEATURE
KEN ****'S PRIVATE LIFE ON CAMERA!
I DON'T WANT THIS!
...AND PISS OFF THE WORLD TOO!
I WANNA GIVE AWAY UNWANTED GIFTS...
NO FAIR, NOZOMU-SAMA.
NOW YOU'VE PISSED OFF ALL THOSE PEOPLE.

MERRY XMAS!
THAT'S LAST SUMMER'S MODEL. WHO'D WANT THAT?
IT'S AN EXPENSIVE DESIGNER HANDBAG!
CAN I REALLY HAVE THIS?
CAN I REALLY HAVE THIS?
MERRY XMAS!
AWE-SOME.
WHO'D WANT THAT?
IT'S LAST YEAR'S MODEL.
TALKING LIKE THAT IS GONNA MAKE YOU VERY UNPOPULAR.
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THE WORKING-CLASS MIND.
WHY ARE THEY SO HAPPY TO GET THESE UNWANTED PRESENTS?
MERRY XMAS!
SOMEDAY, THOSE THINGS WILL COME IN HANDY.
I'M REALLY NOT TRYING TO ANNOY PEOPLE BY GIVING AWAY UNWANTED GIFTS.
MERRY XMAS!
MERRY XMAS!

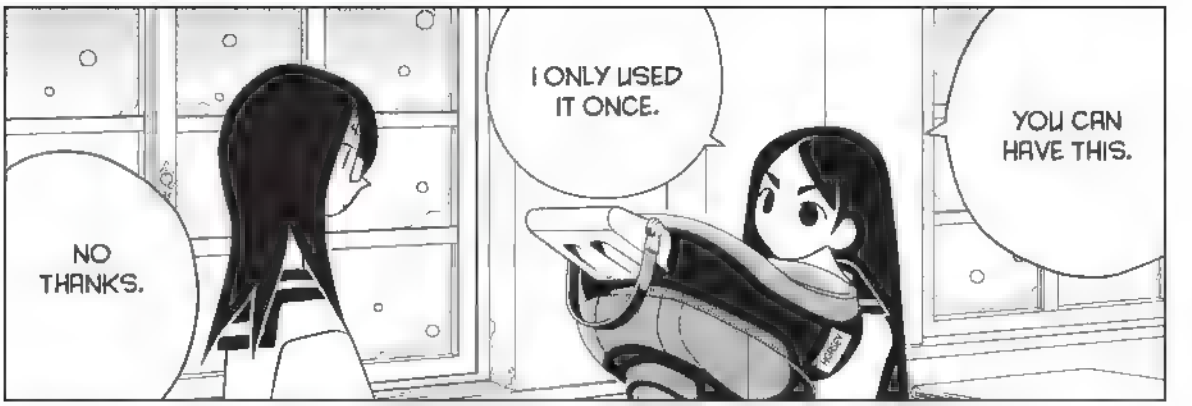
SIGH. I FINALLY FINISHED GIVING THEM ALL AWAY.
HUH?
WELL...
...WE CAN'T VERY WELL JUST ACCEPT THESE WITHOUT GIVING SOMETHING BACK, SO WE GOT YOU SOME PRESENTS, TOO.
I PROMISE YOU THEY'LL COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY!
I THINK WE HAVE A LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDING HERE!
...THEY'LL COME IN HANDY... WON'T THEY...?
SOMEDAY...
500 SUPER BALLS
I DON'T WANT THEM NOW, AND I NEVER WILL!
NO, THEY WON'T!
YOU'RE SO USED TO BEING SURROUNDED BY EXCESS THAT YOU'RE NOT EVEN THANKFUL WHEN YOU RECEIVE A GIFT.
JAPAN IS KNOWN FOR BEING A COUNTRY OF EXCESS.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
...YOU'D BE THANKFUL FOR EVERY SINGLE THING YOU WERE GIVEN.
IF YOU WERE IN AN IMPOVERISHED NATION...

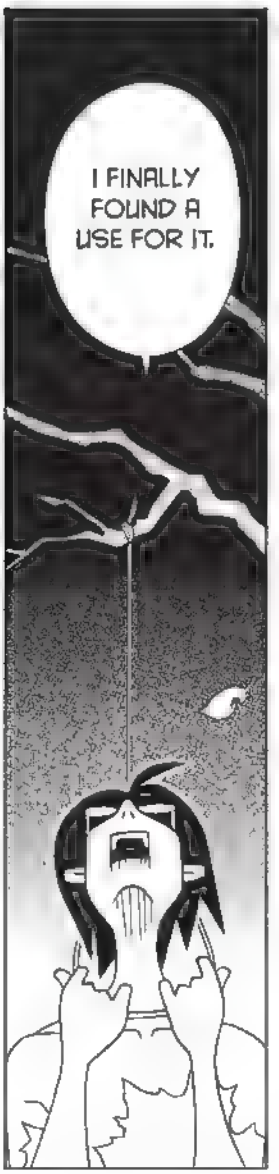
FWEESH
MERRY XMAS!

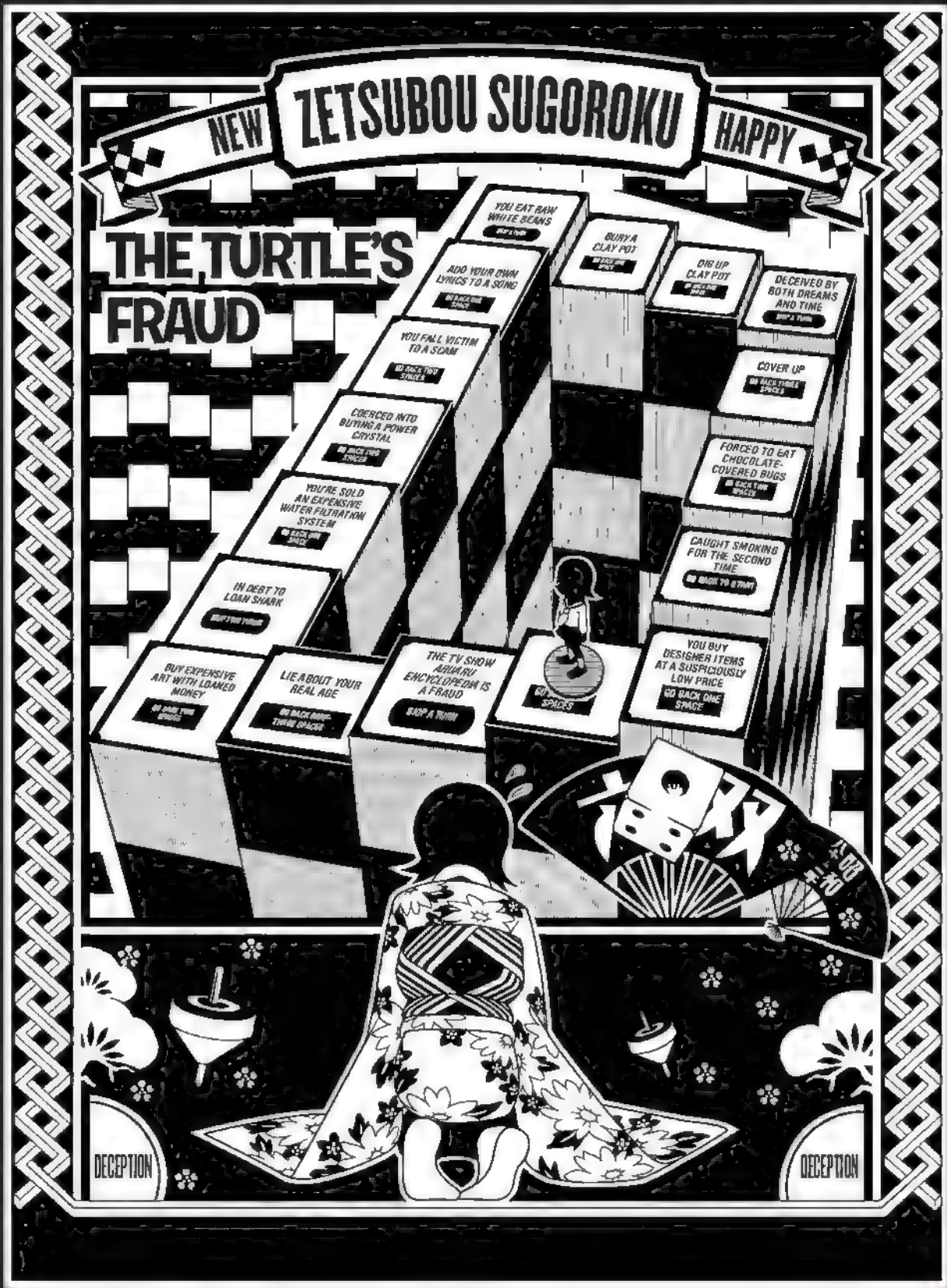

SHOELACE
PLOP


YEAH, RIGHT! WHO NEEDS THIS?

I'M SO THANKFUL FOR THIS SHOELACE.
AAHHH.


NO THANKS.
I ONLY USED IT ONCE.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS.


I FINALLY FOUND A USE FOR IT.


NEW
ZETSUBOU SUGOROKU
HAPPY
THE TURTLE'S FRAUD
YOU EAT RAW WHITE BEANS
BURY A CLAY POT
DIG UP CLAY POT
DECEIVED BY BOTH DREAMS AND TIME
ADD YOUR OWN LYRICS TO A SONG
COVER UP
YOU FALL VICTIM TO A SCAM
FORCED TO EAT CHOCOLATE-COVERED BUGS
COERCED INTO BUYING A POWER CRYSTAL
CAUGHT SMOKING FOR THE SECOND TIME
YOU'RE SOLD AN EXPENSIVE WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM
IN DEBT TO LOAN SHARK
YOU BUY DESIGNER ITEMS AT A SUSPICIOUSLY LOW PRICE
BUY EXPENSIVE ART WITH LOANED MONEY
LIE ABOUT YOUR REAL AGE
THE TV SHOW ARIARU ENCYCLOPEDIA IS A FRAUD
DECEPTION
DECEPTION

CHAPTER 77

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

WELL... THERE'S REALLY NOTHING HAPPY ABOUT IT.

SENSEI.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.
WANNA PLAY WITH US?
HEY, MAJIRU-KUN.
DON'T YOU FEEL BAD SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF MAJIRU-KUN?
LIKE I SAID, THERE'S REALLY NOTHING HAPPY ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR.

WANNA PLAY HANETSUKI?
WANNA FLY A KITE?
WANNA SPIN A TOP?
WANNA PLAY SUGOROKU WITH ME?
FUKUWARAI
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN CHILDISH GAMES AND TRICKERY.
NO, THANKS.
THERE ARE FAR MORE FRIGHTENING GAMES IN THIS WORLD OF OURS.
...THAT BAD, YOU KNOW?
YOU CALL THAT TRICKERY? CHILDISH GAMES AREN'T...

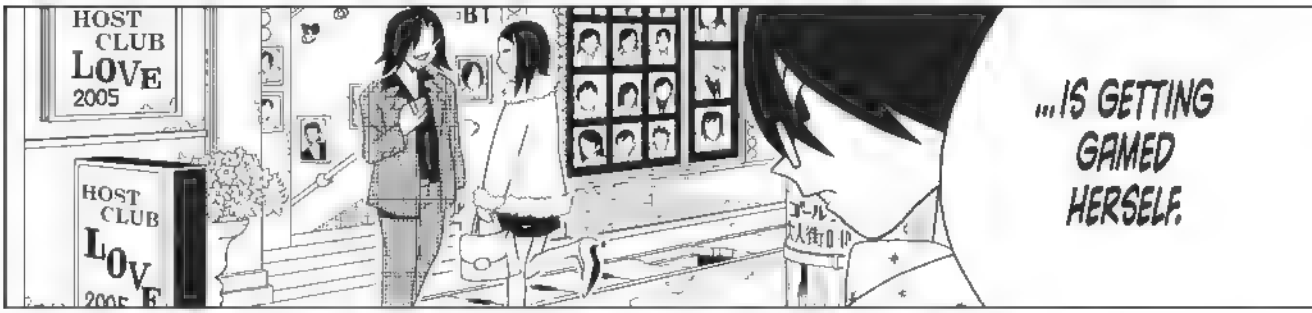
I'M TALKING ABOUT GROWN-UP GAMES!
愛
THEY CAN FALL VICTIM TO ANY NUMBER OF GROWN-UP GAMES.
THAT'S RIGHT. ADULTS ARE DECEIVED ALL THE TIME.
GROWN-UP GAMES...?
OKAY.
I WANNA TRY A GROWN-UP GAME.
GROWN-UP GAMES?

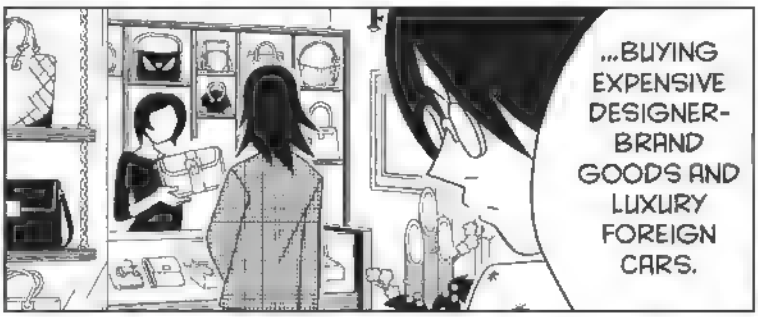
COME WITH ME.
I'LL TAKE YOU ON A SOCIOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP AND GIVE YOU A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT SOME OF THE TRICKERY INVOLVED IN GROWN-UP GAMES.
CLUB OTONA
WHITE EVE
PINK

*HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS

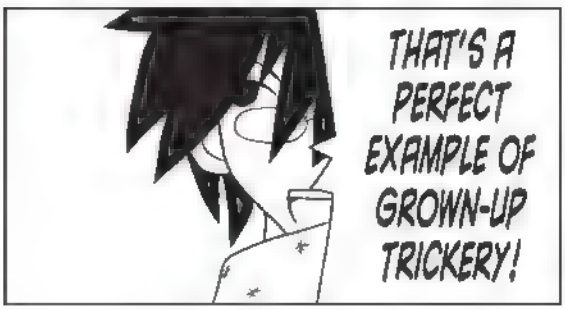
THAT'S GROWN-UP TRICKERY!
AND THEY END UP CHARGING YOU TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEN* JUST FOR A COUPLE OF DRINKS.
A HOSTESS SITS NEXT TO YOU AND STRIKES UP SOME POINTLESS CONVERSATION.
WAS THAT IT?
.....

AND LOOK, NOW THE HOSTESS WHO WAS RUNNING THE GAME BACK AT THAT BAR...
SEE YA LATER
ADULT
THESE GROWN-UP MEN INTENTIONALLY GO THERE TO BE DECEIVED.
AND THESE ARE JUST REGULAR BARS! THEY'RE NOT EVEN OPERATING ILLEGALLY.


HOST CLUB LOVE 2005
HOST CLUB LOVE
...IS GETTING GAMED HERSELF.


...BUYING EXPENSIVE DESIGNER-BRAND GOODS AND LUXURY FOREIGN CARS.

THE HOSTESS WHO GAMED US, AND THE HOST WHO GAMED HER, ARE BOTH GOING TO GET TRICKED INTO...

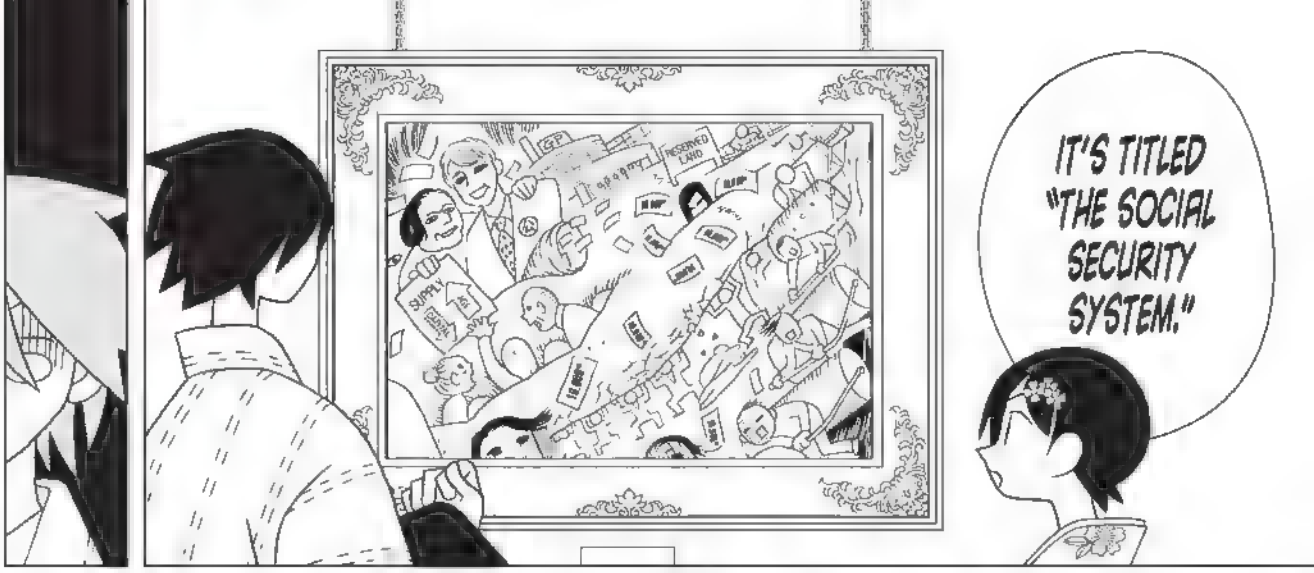

THAT'S A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF GROWN-UP TRICKERY!

BECAUSE THEY CHARGE ONE MILLION YEN* FOR A SIMPLE HANDBAG JUST BECAUSE IT HAS A BRAND LOGO ON IT.
HOW IS THAT AN EXAMPLE OF BEING TRICKED?

*$10,000

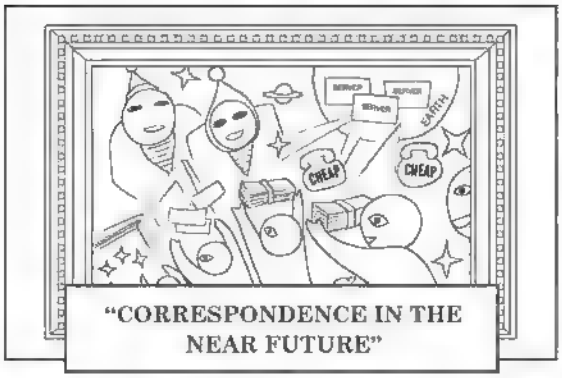
WHAT ABOUT THAT?
JUST LIKE IN THAT MOVIE THE STING!
HE WHO TRICKS GETS TRICKED, AND HE WHO GETS TRICKED GOES ON TO TRICK SOMEONE ELSE. IT'S A NEVER-ENDING CYCLE!

...PRACTICE GROWN-UP TRICKERY.
MOST POLITICIANS...
THE PEOPLE MUST TAKE BACK THE POWER! POLITICS FOR THE PEOPLE!
OTONADA
YEAH, THAT'S DEFINITELY GROWN-UP TRICKERY.
SENSEI.
ONCE YOU BECOME AN ADULT, YOUR CHANCES OF BEING TRICKED GREATLY INCREASE.
TRICK ART?
...THEY'RE HAVING A TRICK ART EXHIBIT OVER THERE.
TRICK ART OF THE 20TH CENTURY
SPEAKING OF TRICKS...
ESCHER'S NOT PART OF THE EXHIBITION, BUT...
WHEN I THINK OF TRICK ART, I THINK OF THE ILLUSIONS OF M. C. ESCHER.
WHAT'S THIS?
...THERE ARE MANY OTHER WORKS OF TRICK ART ON DISPLAY.


IT'S TITLED "THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM."

LOOK AT THIS NEXT PAINTING.

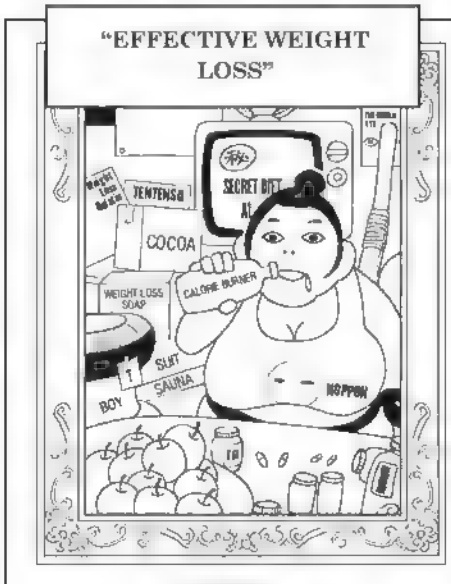
SEE HOW THEY'VE ALL BEEN TRICKED?
THIS GIVES A NEW MEANING TO THE PHRASE "TRICK ART."


"CORRESPONDENCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE"

IT'S TITLED "THE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY."

"INTER-NET IDOL"

AND THERE'S MORE.
THEY CERTAINLY ARE GOOD EXAMPLES OF TRICK ART.

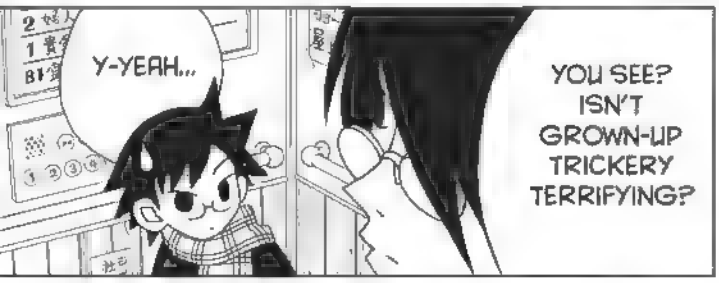

"EFFECTIVE WEIGHT LOSS"
TENTENSU
SECRET DIET
COCOA
WEIGHT LOSS SOAP
CALORIE BURNER
SUIT
SAUNA
BOY
NIPPON

YEP, THOSE ARE INDEED EXAMPLES OF "TRICK ART."
• "FROM COAL MINE TO TOURIST DESTINATION"
• "FREE UNLIMITED TEXTING AND CALLS"
• "BANK INTEREST RATES AND SERVICE CHARGES"
• "PRIVATIZATION OF THE JAPAN HIGHWAY CORPORATION"
• "THE COMPANY WITH THE LARGEST MARKET CAP IN THE WORLD"
• "THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNS OF BULLYING ON CAMPUS"
• "THE PORK CUTLET DIET"
• "THE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WORLD TOURNAMENT MVP"
• "THE SEALED PAGES IN THE MAGAZINE F**DAY"
• "THE THREE KAMEDA BROTHERS"
HERE ARE SOME OF THE OTHER PAINTINGS!

IF YOU HANG THIS PAINTING ON YOUR WALL, EVERYONE WILL WANT TO COME VISIT YOU.
AREN'T THOSE DOLPHINS ADORABLE?
THIS JUST LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL PAINTING. QUITE BEAUTIFUL.
HUH?

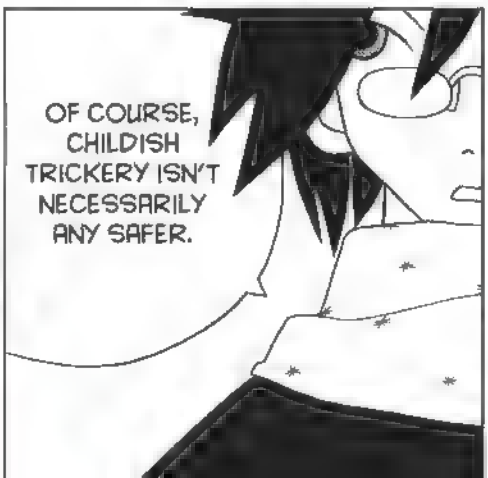
NOW THAT'S TRICK ART IF I EVER SAW IT!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY ONE? WE'RE OFFERING A 30 PERCENT DISCOUNT, SO IT'S JUST 550,000 YEN.*
IT'S A SIGNED AND NUMBERED SILKSCREEN PRINT, SO IT WILL DEFINITELY GO UP IN PRICE.

*¥5,500


Y-YEAH...
YOU SEE? ISN'T GROWN-UP TRICKERY TERRIFYING?

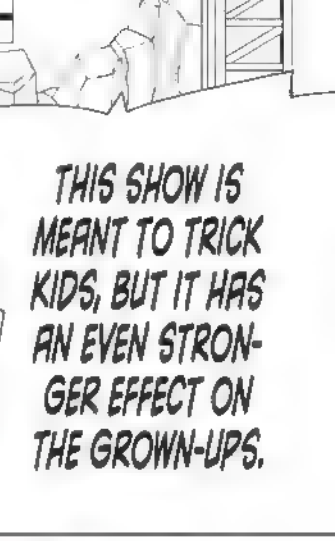
I ALMOST FELL FOR A GROWN-UP TRICK.
TRICK ART OF THE 20TH CENTURY EXHIBITION

SHAKU RANGER SHOW
LOOK OVER THERE.


OF COURSE, CHILDISH TRICKERY ISN'T NECESSARILY ANY SAFER.

THE ADULTS ARE WAY MORE INTO IT THAN THE KIDS ARE.

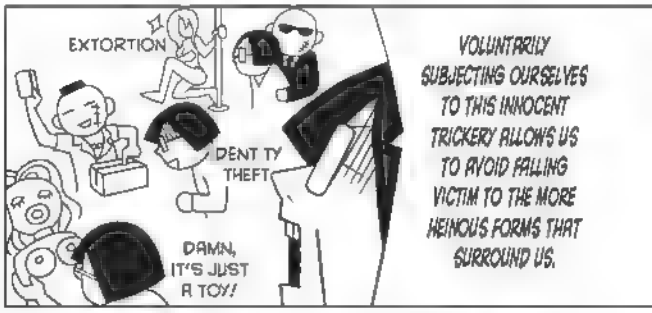
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
WAAHHH
ワアアア


THIS SHOW IS MEANT TO TRICK KIDS, BUT IT HAS AN EVEN STRONGER EFFECT ON THE GROWN-UPS.

KURE BATTLE MUSICAL
ふっ
HEH
...WE'RE BEING DECEIVED BY CHOICE.

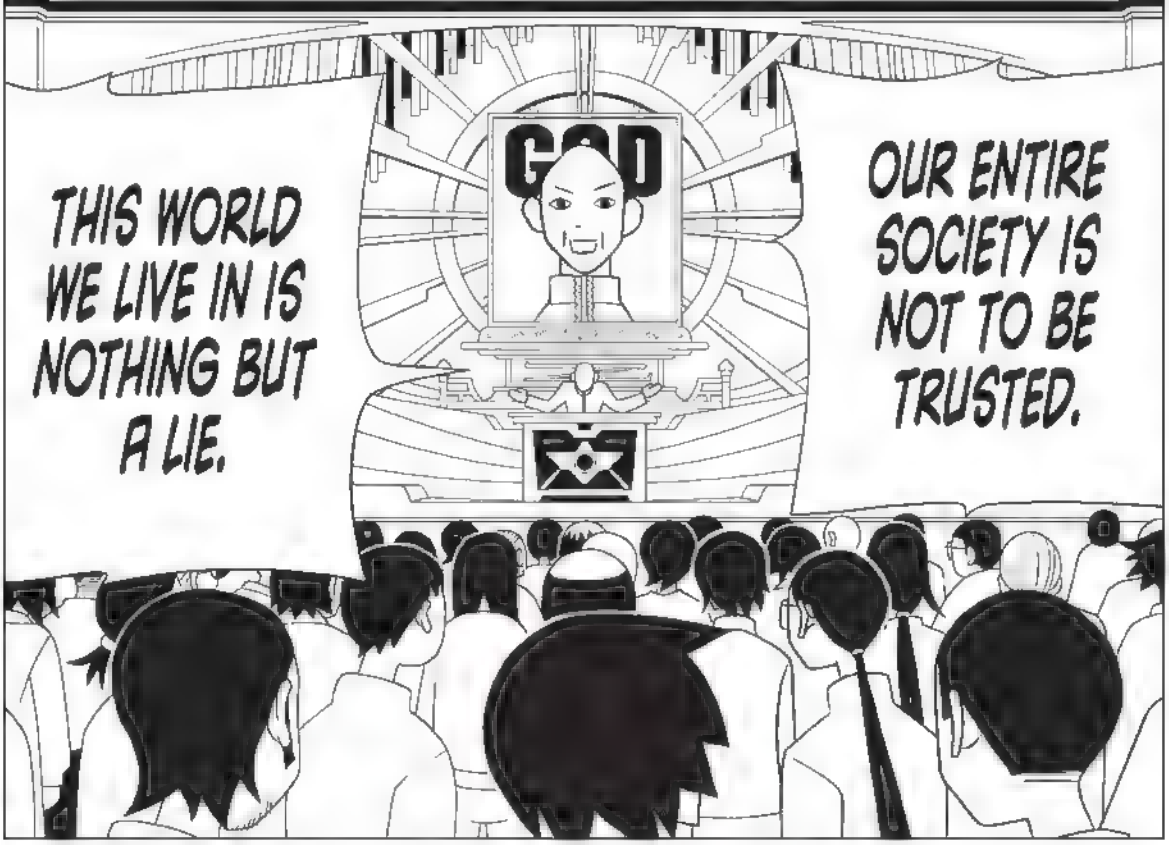
YOU MAY BE RIGHT ABOUT THE ADULTS FALLING FOR THIS TRICKERY, BUT...
MAN-SEIBASHI-KUN.

...THAT'S QUITE DEEP.
ACTUALLY...


EXTORTION
DENT TY THEFT
DAMN, IT'S JUST A TOY!
VOLUNTARILY SUBJECTING OURSELVES TO THIS INNOCENT TRICKERY ALLOWS US TO AVOID FALLING VICTIM TO THE MORE HEINOUS FORMS THAT SURROUND US.

HUH?
I GOT IT!

BECAUSE AS ADULTS, WE FACE SO MANY HARSH REALITIES EVERY DAY.
BECAUSE YOU'RE SCARED?
I'M GOING TO INTENTIONALLY ALLOW MYSELF TO BE TRICKED.
...IS THE ONLY WAY FOR AN ADULT TO FUNCTION IN THIS WORLD.
ALLOWING OURSELVES TO BE TRICKED INTENTION-ALLY...
SYSTEM
YOU SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER, AND EACH NEW MEMBER THAT PERSON SIGNS UP BECOMES PART OF YOUR GROUP.
CLICK HERE
OAN CORPORATION AGREEMENT
IT'S ME.
OH, IS THAT YOU?
I'LL TAKE THEM.
FUNDS
IPO
I'VE GOT SOME PRE-SALE SHARES OF AN IPO.
OH YEAH?
N PLUS 1
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY GUY FRIENDS.
秘伝の書
大運
手から出た粉
THAT'S RIGHT. DON'T LET YOURSELF BE DECEIVED.
STEP
I WILL NOT BE DECEIVED AGAIN!
I WILL NEVER FALL FOR SUCH TRICKERY AGAIN!
I WENT OUT TO BE INTENTIONALLY DECEIVED...
...AND I ENDED UP LOSING EVERYTHING, EVEN THE HAIR ON MY BUTT CRACK!


GOD
THIS WORLD WE LIVE IN IS NOTHING BUT A LIE.
OUR ENTIRE SOCIETY IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.

DAMN IT, THEY'VE BEEN DECEIVING US ALL THIS TIME!

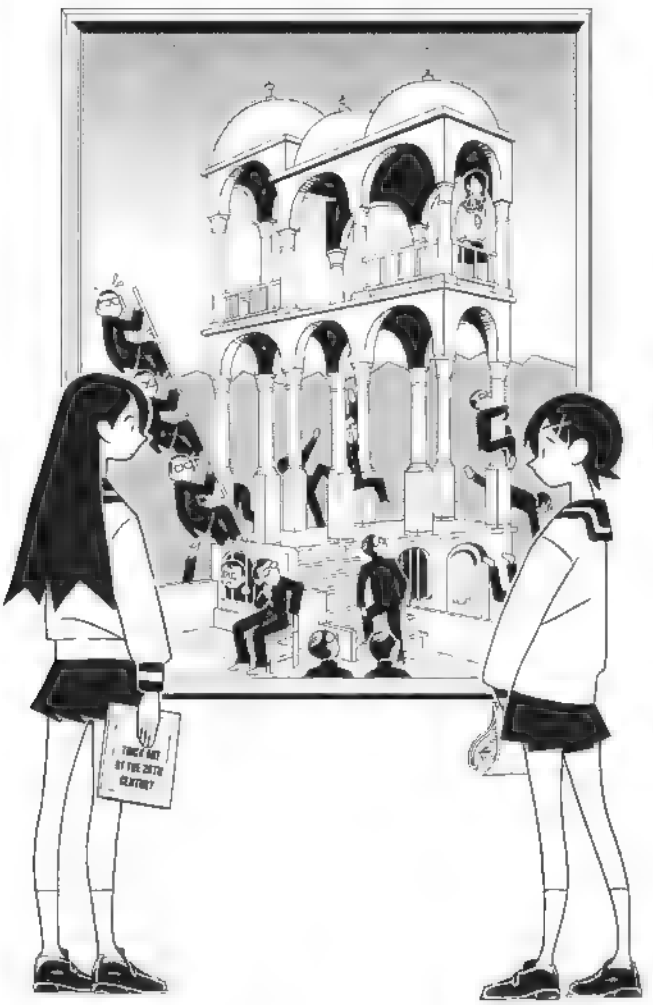
THEY ARE GOING TO GRIND US UP AND FEED US TO THEM.
OUR WORLD LEADERS HAVE ALREADY MADE A SECRET DEAL WITH THE ALIENS!

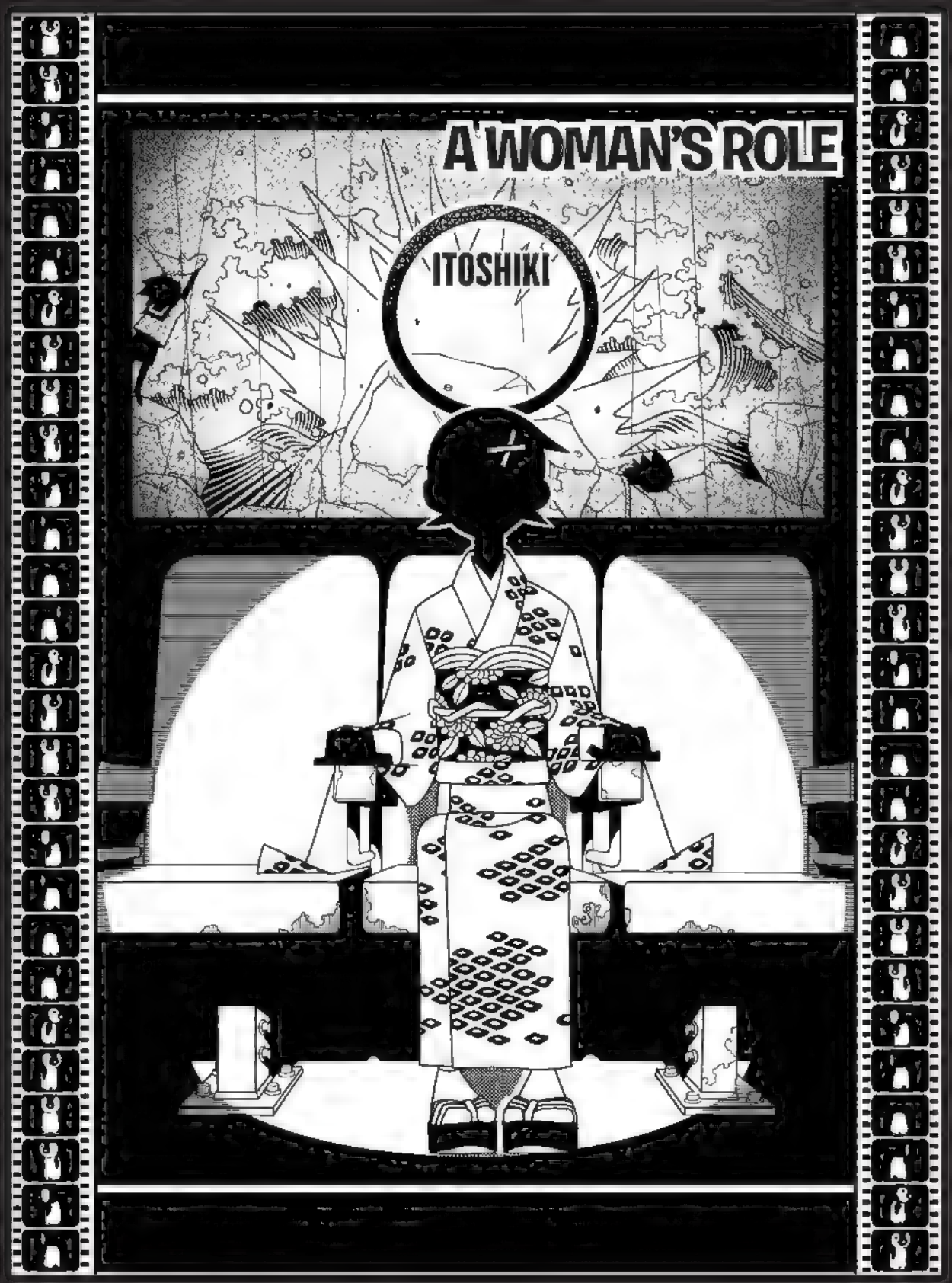
AAAA-HHH!

GO, MY HOLY WARRIORS!
THIS DECEPTION MUST END NOW!

BEWARE THE GROWN-UP TRICK.

...THE MORE LIKELY YOU ARE TO FALL FOR ANOTHER.
THE HARDER YOU TRY TO AVOID ONE TRICK...





CHAPTER 78

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU GET SUCKED INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S DRAMA.
ラーメン軒
COSMOS
大人街
KT
650
KT TAXI
THE STATION, PLEASE.
STARE
じー
?
WELL, YOU SEE... I'M RETIRING TODAY.
SOME-THING WRONG?

...BE MY LAST CUSTOMER.
YOU'LL...

UH...UM...
WHERE TO?

LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK AT THE OCEAN.

*¥10,000

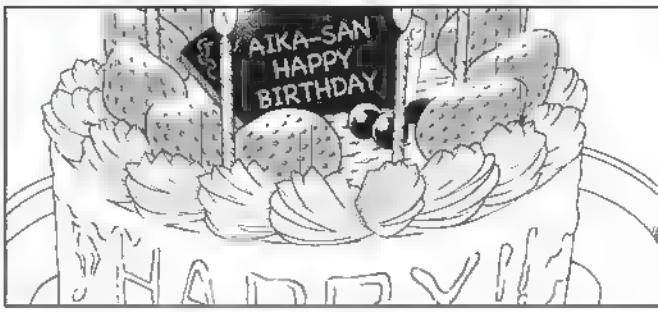
...BACK DURING THE BUBBLE ECONOMY, TIPPED HIM A MILLION YEN.*
THE FIRST CUSTOMER HE PICKED UP...
THE DRIVER TOLD ME ALL KINDS OF STORIES ON THE WAY TO THE BEACH.
KT TAXI

ざざーん
SPLASH
...WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING HERE?
WAIT...
...THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU GET SUCKED INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S DRAMA.
SIGH.
SO, YOU SEE...
...I COULDN'T JUST ASK HIM TO TAKE ME TO THE STATION A FEW BLOCKS DOWN.
BUT AFTER WHAT HE SAID...
RISTORANTE HELLO
RISTORANTE HELLO
SWIP
EXCUSE ME, SIR.

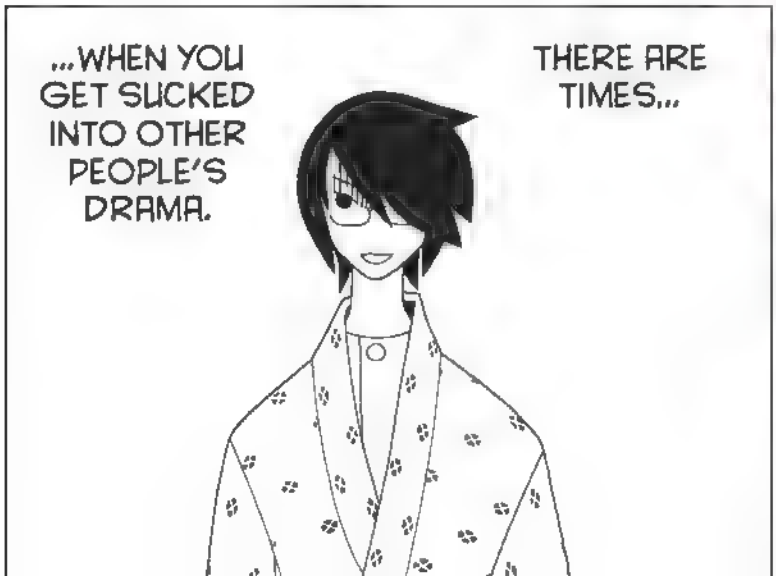
YOU SEE THE CUSTOMER SITTING OVER THERE? IT HAPPENS TO BE HER BIRTHDAY TODAY.

UH... OKAY...
WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE SINGING HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO HER AS WE BRING OUT THE CAKE. WOULD YOU PLEASE JOIN US?

HAPPY...
3
2
HAPPY!!


AIKA-SAN HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY!!

HAPPY...
...YOU...
...TO...
...BIRTHDAY...


...WHEN YOU GET SUCKED INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S DRAMA.
THERE ARE TIMES...

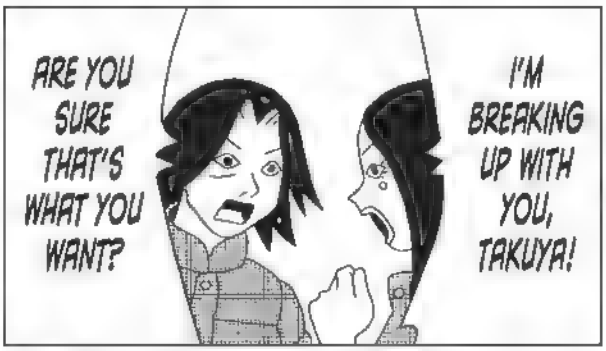
HAPPY BIRTH...

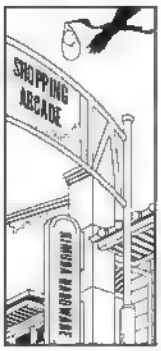
PASSENGER #5
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
THE LAST TAXI
STARRING SHINYA MITO
KUROO HAZAMA
RESTAURANT CUSTOMER #3
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
HER BIRTHDAY
STARRING AIKA HIRAI
MITSUO TERADA
...WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE IN MEDDLING IN OTHER PEOPLE'S DRAMA.
THIS IS THE STORY OF A KIND MAN...
THAT'S RIGHT...
...A VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT TONIGHT.
I AM TRYING TO TAKE CARE OF...
904
EXCUSE ME, SIR.
コンコン
KNOCK KNOCK
ALL THE CUSTOMERS ON FLOORS THREE THROUGH SEVEN HAVE AGREED TO PARTICIPATE.
OKAY, GOOD JOB.
MEIOU PLAZA HOTEL
HOTEL

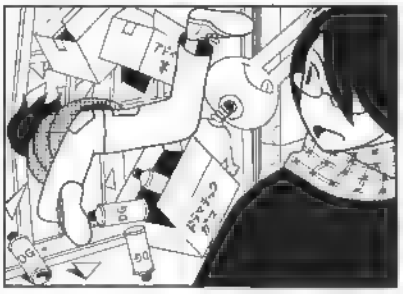
MAY I ASK YOU TO PLEASE TURN OUT THE LIGHTS IN YOUR ROOM?
YES?
AS YOU CAN SEE IN THIS DRAWING, WE'RE TRYING TO CELEBRATE COMING OF AGE DAY BY ARRANGING OUR WINDOW LIGHTS TO FORM THE KANJI "HAPPY COMING OF AGE DAY."
MEIOU HOTEL LIGHT UP
YOUR ROOM
HUH?
*HAPPY COMING OF AGE DAY
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP.
パチパチ
CLAP CLAP
CONGRATULATIONS, BOSS! IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
ピー
MOVED
ぽっ
FLICK
WAAHH
HOTEL
.....

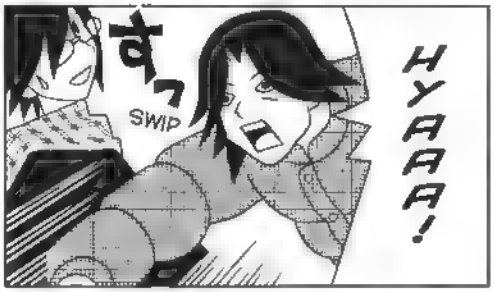
GUEST IN ROOM #904

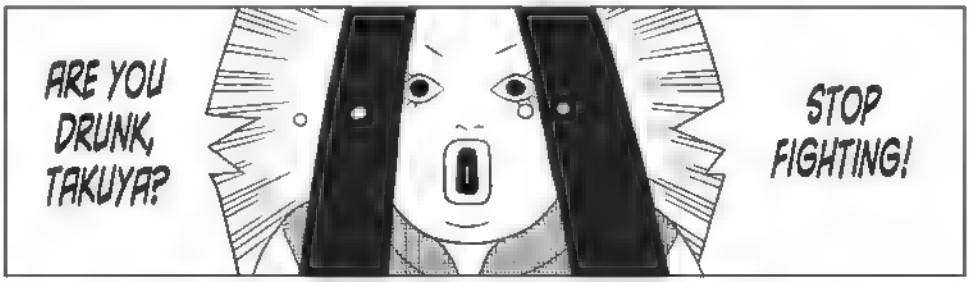
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

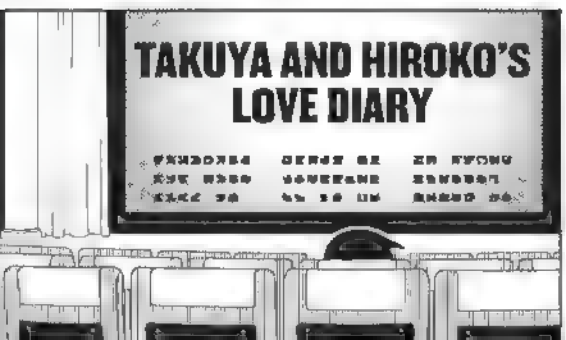






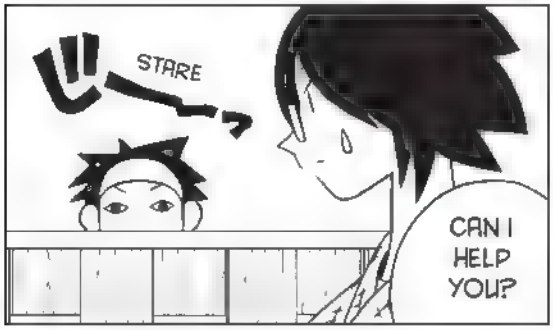


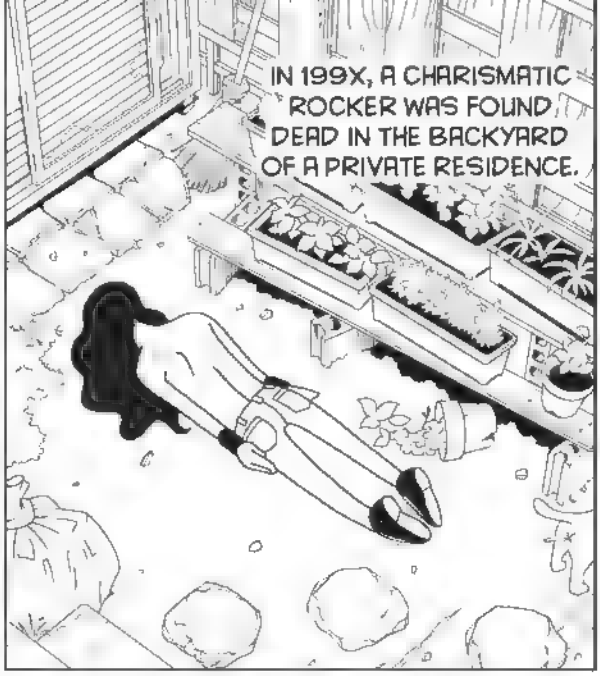


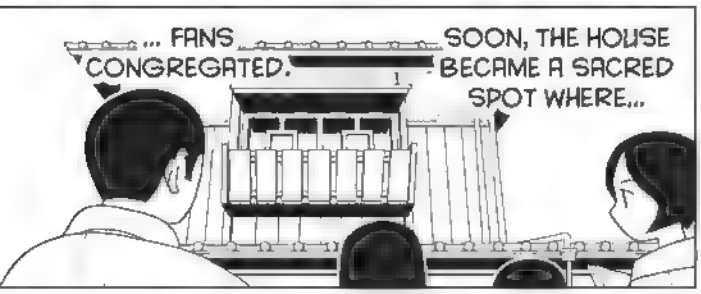


BAD GUY #1

NOZOMU ITOSHIKI





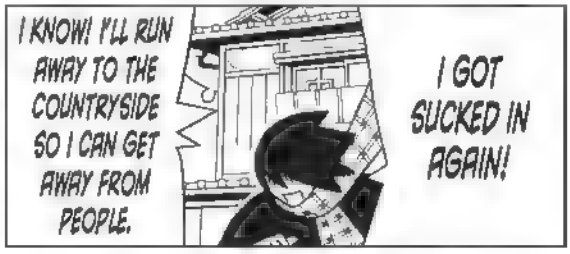


RESIDENT OF THE SACRED HOUSE

NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

THE LEGENDARY ROCKER

THE STORY OF OZEKI
STARRING OZEKI



A WINTER'S TALE AT THE PENSION

WEIRD LATE-NIGHT GUEST

NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

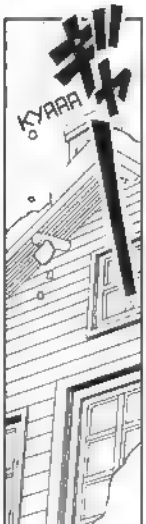
• YOU'RE ASKED TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO ALL THE GUESTS.
PLEASE CALL ME ISHIIITOSHI.
• HE INVITES YOU TO WATCH HIM PERFORM.
YOU'RE FORCED TO PLAY ALONG WITH THE PENSION OWNER'S SELF-OBSESSIVE FANTASY.

FOUR EYES

NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

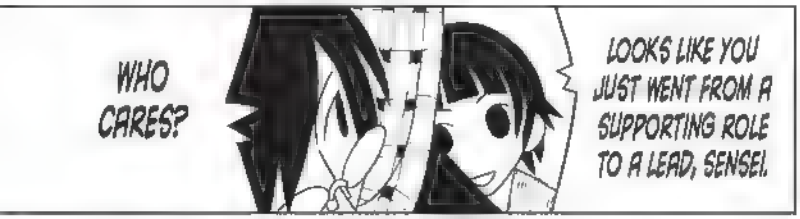
SAYAKA'S JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY

WINTER IN HOKURIKU

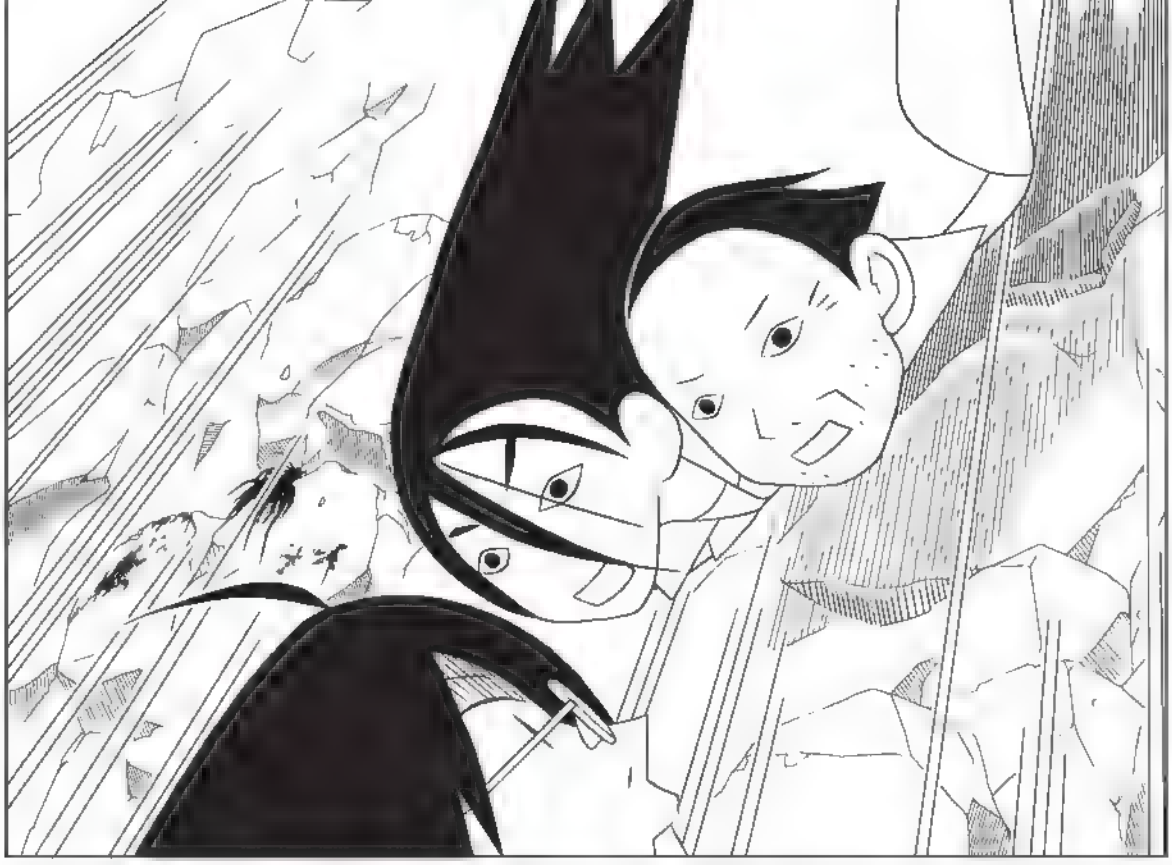


SUSPECT B
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

MURDER MYSTERY AT THE PENSION
~ THE THREE VANISHING CORPSES ~



THE KILLER
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI



GUY BELOW
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

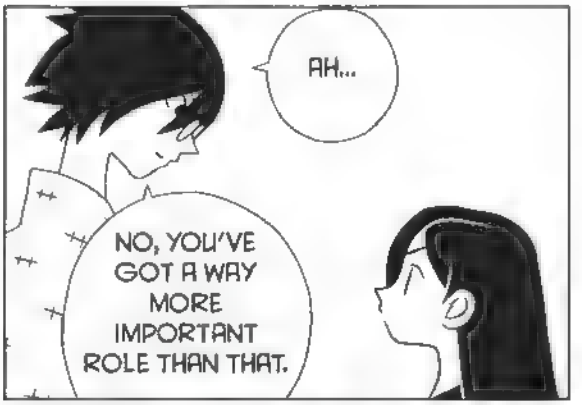
TOUJINBOU
DOUBLE SUICIDE

THE STORY OF
HER AND ME

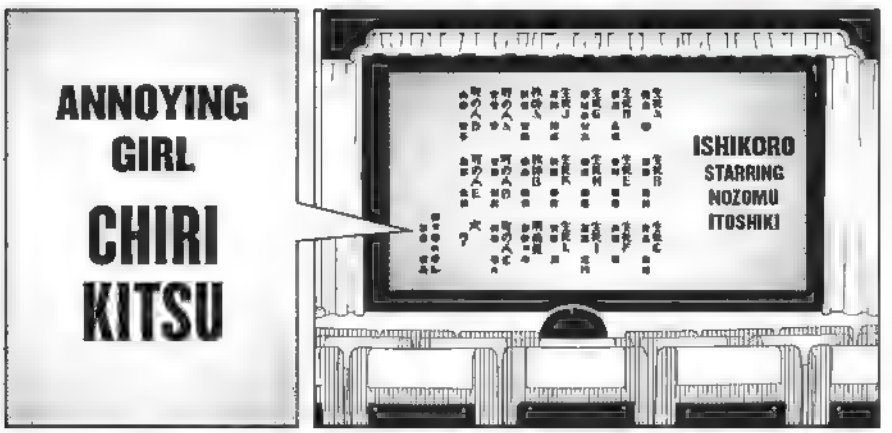
GIRLFRIEND
ABIRU KOBUSHI

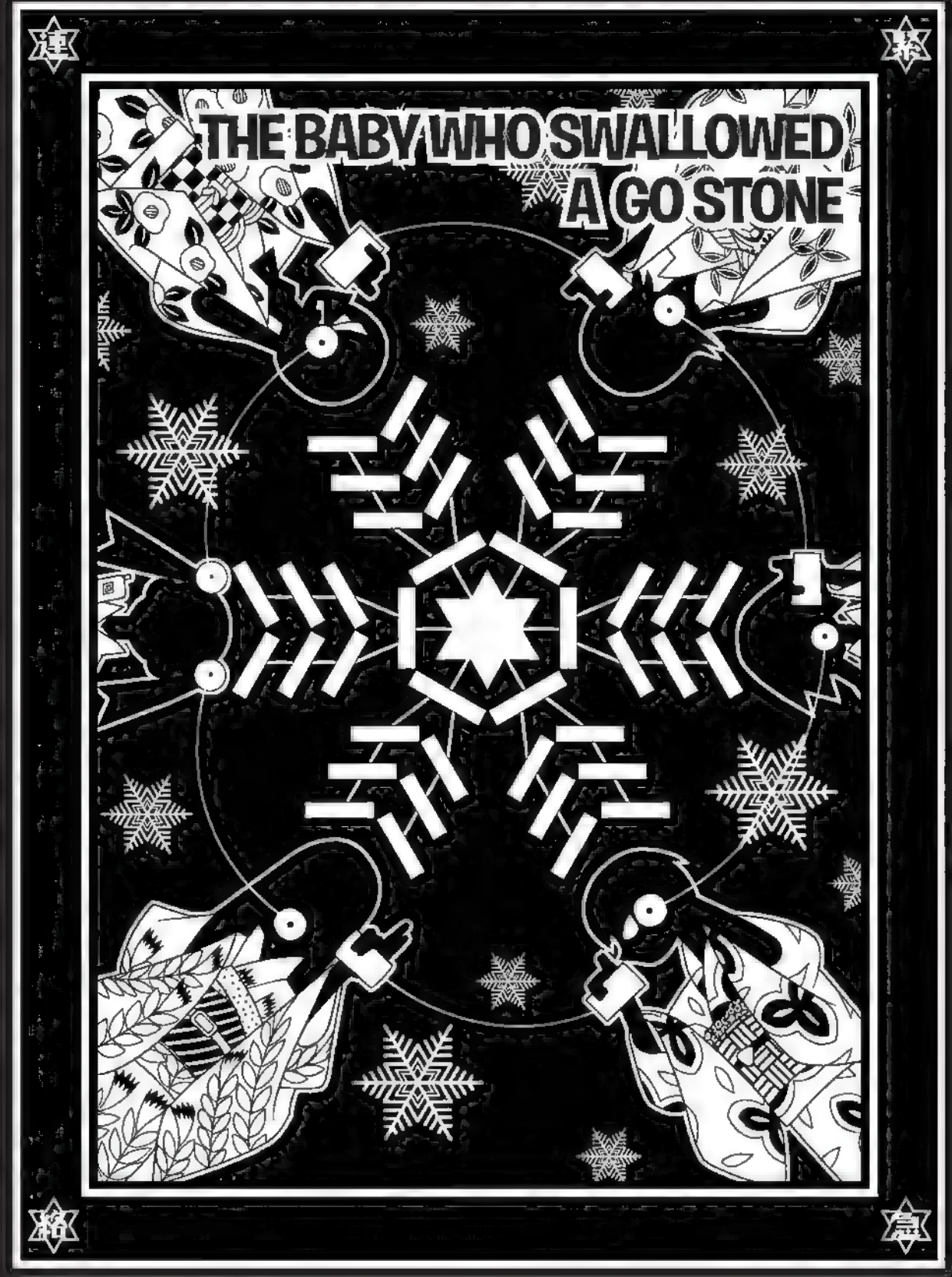
HER STALKER IS SO DELUDED.

...IN YOUR STORY, SENSEI?
AM I JUST PLAYING THE BIT PART OF STUDENT #1...


AH...
NO, YOU'VE GOT A WAY MORE IMPORTANT ROLE THAN THAT.

OH REALLY?
I'M SO HAPPY!

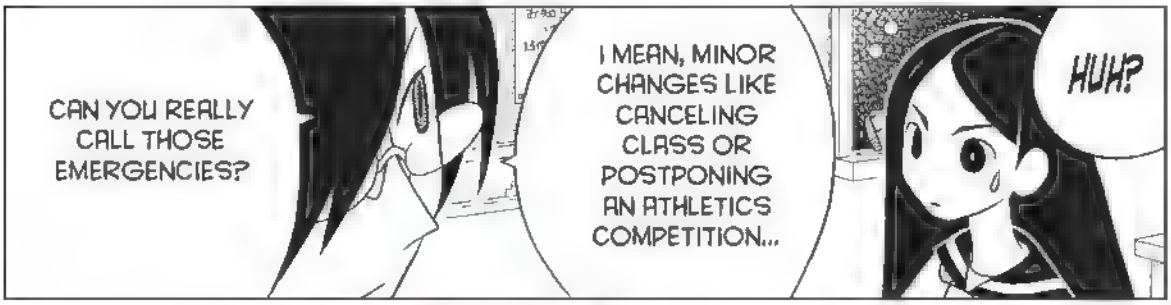

ANNOYING GIRL
CHIRI KITSU
ISHIKORO
STARRING
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

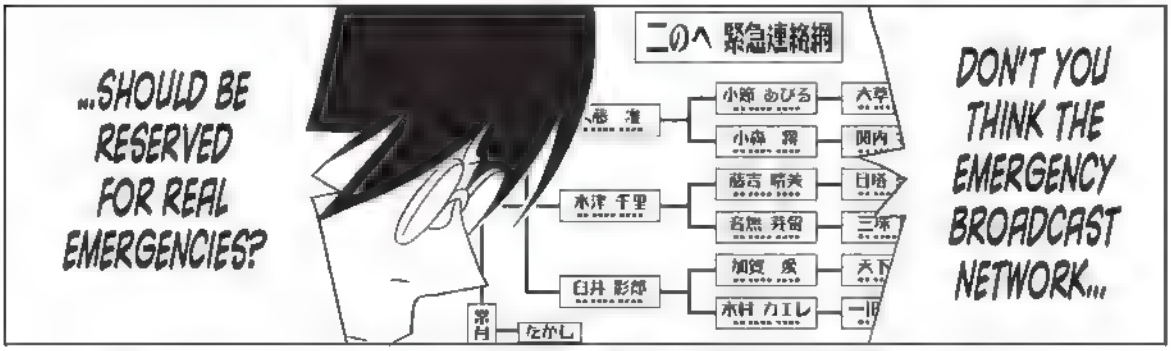


CHAPTER 79

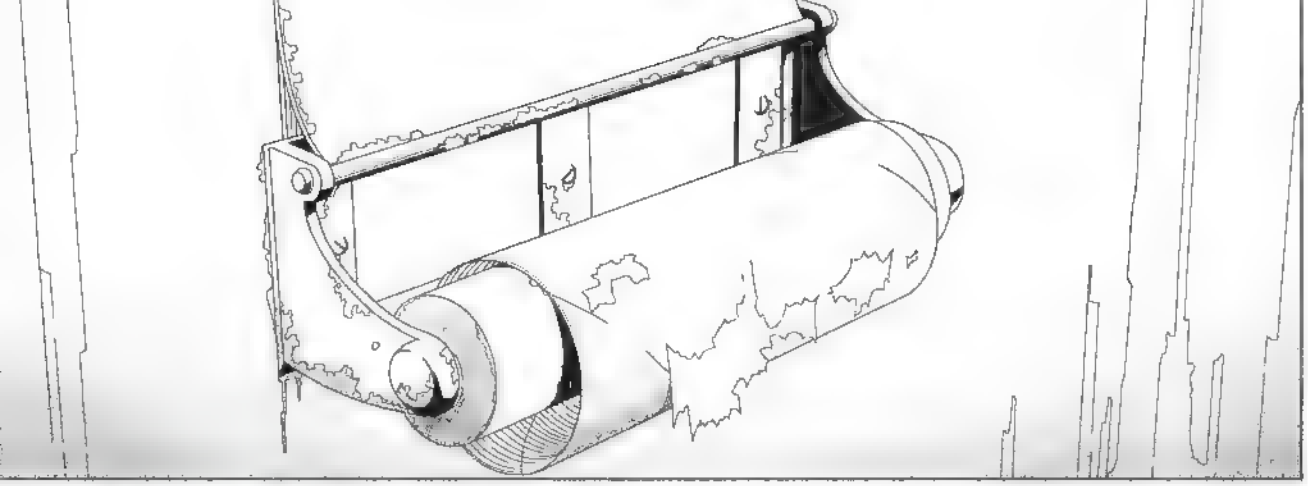
LOOKS LIKE THE SNOW'S REALLY PILING UP OUT THERE.
ATTENDANCE LIST
IF THAT HAPPENS, WE'LL HAVE TO ANNOUNCE IT OVER THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK.
IF THIS SNOW KEEPS UP, WE MIGHT HAVE TO CANCEL CLASS TOMORROW.
EMERGENCY?

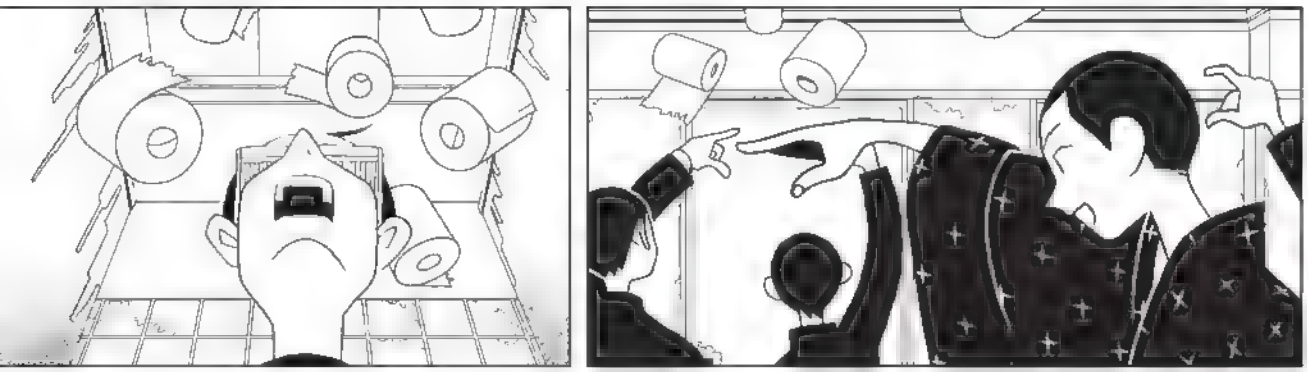
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S AN EMERGENCY?


CAN YOU REALLY CALL THOSE EMERGENCIES?
I MEAN, MINOR CHANGES LIKE CANCELING CLASS OR POSTPONING AN ATHLETICS COMPETITION...
HUH?


...SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR REAL EMERGENCIES?
二のへ 緊急連絡網
DON'T YOU THINK THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK...

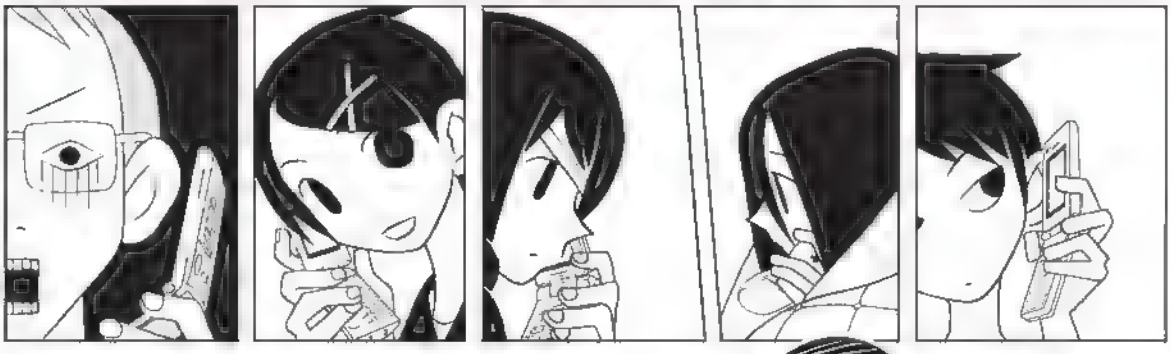
WELL, GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU MEAN BY A REAL EMERGENCY.
ACTUALLY, I'VE SET UP A SPECIAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL EMERGENCIES ARE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY!

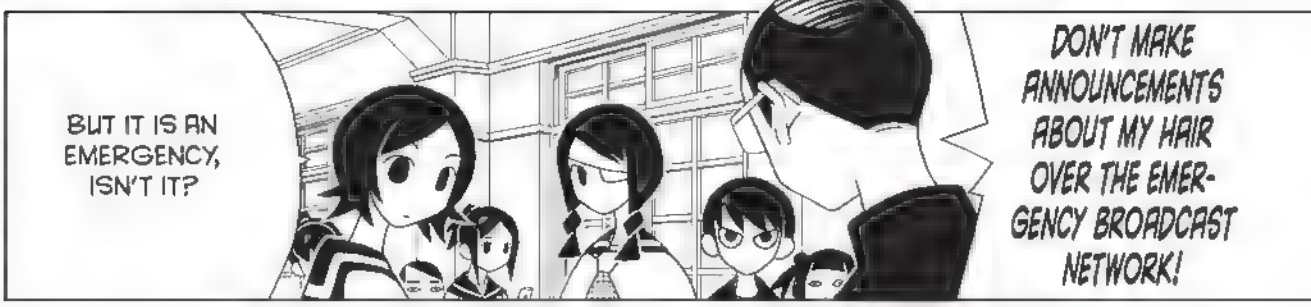




THEY ANNOUNCED IT OVER THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK.
EVERYBODY KNOWS ABOUT IT.
ガラッ
SLIDE
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT MY EMERGENCY!?

...DID YOU HAVE TO TELL EVERY-BODY?
YOU REALLY SAVED MY ASS, BUT...




BUT IT IS AN EMERGENCY, ISN'T IT?
DON'T MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT MY HAIR OVER THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK!

...HEAVY SNOW OR CANCELED ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS!
...THERE ARE EMERGENCIES THAT ARE FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN...
...I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT...
WELL...

OR WHEN THERE'S ONLY FIVE MINUTES LEFT BEFORE YOU TURN IN YOUR EXAM, AND YOU REALIZE YOU WROTE ALL YOUR ANSWERS IN THE WRONG COLUMN.
OR WHEN THE CONVENIENCE STORE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CLOSES DOWN!
SHINSEN
CONVENIENCE
FOR RENT
OR WHEN SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO PUKE STANDS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU ON THE TRAIN!
LIKE WHEN YOUR CONTACT LENS GETS STUCK BEHIND YOUR EYELID!

- YOU'RE TAKEN TO A SHADY BAR IN THE KABUKICHO RED LIGHT DISTRICT
- YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN A SHADY CLUB ON CAMPUS
- YOU ACCIDENTALLY TYPE IN "PRICE: 1 YEN, NUMBER OF SHARES OF STOCK: 610,000" INSTEAD OF THE OTHER WAY AROUND
- YOU GET LOST IN SNOW-COVERED MOUNTAINS, AND THE ONLY FOOD YOU HAVE WITH YOU IS BARBECUE SAUCE
- X-RATED PHOTOS OF YOU AND YOUR PARTNER ARE SPREAD ONLINE
- A COLLEGE PROFESSOR ACCIDENTALLY PLAYS HIS OWN HOMEMADE PORNO IN FRONT OF A GROUP OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS
- THE FORWARD FOR JAPAN'S SOCCER WORLD CUP TEAM SAYS, "SUDDENLY THE BALL WAS COMING RIGHT AT ME...I WAS CAUGHT OFF GUARD"
- THE OFFICE OF A CERTAIN MANGA ARTIST IS FOUND EMPTY ON THE DAY BEFORE HIS DEADLINE
- "MY WIFE IS GONNA CHEAT ON ME TONIGHT"
- CELEBRITIES WHO ONCE DATED ACTRESS MARIKO ISHIHARA
- SINGERS APPEARING LIVE ON TV, DONNING RISQUÉ OUTFITS THAT THEY DIDN'T WEAR IN REHEARSAL
- SUICIDE THREATS ARE SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
- A DOG IS STRANDED ON THE EDGE OF A CLIFF

I'M TALKING ABOUT SERIOUS EMERGENCIES.

THE INFORMATION WE'VE BEEN COMMUNICATING OVER THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

THAT'S WHAT THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK IS FOR.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER AN EMERGENCY SITUATION INVOLVING YOURSELF OR SOMEONE ELSE, YOU MUST SPREAD THE WORD IMMEDIATELY.

WEAR LOOSE-FITTING CLOTHING TO SCHOOL TOMORROW.

NO LUNCH WILL BE SERVED TOMORROW, SO PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN.

DON'T FORGET WE HAVE CLASS TOMORROW.

BRING TWO RAGS TOMORROW.

...HASN'T REALLY BEEN THAT URGENT.

...DON'T BE TOO STRICT WITH IT, KITSU-SAN...

UH, WELL...

YOU'RE RIGHT, SENSEI, WE SHOULD SAVE THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK FOR REAL EMERGENCIES.

...I WILL REPORT ANY EMERGENCY THAT COMES TO MY ATTENTION OVER THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK.

AS A MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE...

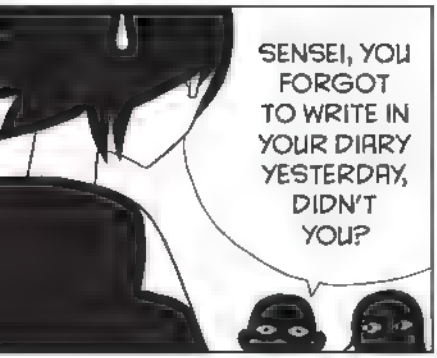
AHH... MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT.
ROGER THAT!
...PROTECTING EVERYONE FROM DANGER!
CONTINUE YOUR MISSION AND KEEP...
DO NOT OPEN
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THIS LOOKS LIKE AN EMERGENCY!

HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
THE DOUJINSHI YOU HID UNDER YOUR BED IS ABOUT TO BE DISCOVERED BY YOUR MOM.
NOOO-OOO-O!
IT WENT OUT ON THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK.
EVERY-ONE KNOWS.
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT!?
OH NO! KIMURA-SAN IS WEARING OLD-FASHIONED UNDERWEAR THAT SHE DOESN'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE.
NOOO-OOO!
ぶおお
HYUUU
THAT WOULD BE A SERIOUS EMERGENCY.
WHAT HAPPENS IF A GUST OF WIND BLOWS IT UP?

AH.
IT'S AN EMERGENCY.
DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS!
THAT'S A FAMILY EMERGENCY.
WHAT? REALLY?
YOUR DAD IS HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH HIS SECRETARY.
IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
ZWING
OOKUSA-SAN PUT ON SOME WEIGHT AFTER THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY...
I GUESS FAMILIAL ISSUES LIKE THAT ARE NORMAL THESE DAYS.
.....
DON'T SAY NORMAL!
IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
ABIRU-CHAN'S FATHER'S BEEN ATTACKED!
IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
THERE'S A GUY WITH HUGE AREOLAS.
IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
KOTONON UPLOADED A PHOTO ONTO HER WEBSITE WITHOUT PHOTO-SHOPPING IT.

THAT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR FELLOW STUDENTS.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK IS BREAKING SOME PRIVACY LAWS.
...REVEALING EVERYONE'S SECRETS!
IT SEEMS LIKE WHAT WE'RE REALLY DOING IS...
THE IMMIGRATION POLICE JUST SEARCHED YOUR APARTMENT!?
OH NO!
GO HIDE SOMEWHERE SAFE!
YOU'RE OFFICIALLY OFF DUTY!
THAT'S A REAL EMERGENCY!
...THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK!
...EVERY EMERGENCY MUST BE PROPERLY ANNOUNCED OVER...
THERE ARE SO MANY EMERGENCIES THAT NEED TO BE ANNOUNCED, AND...

NOD
HUH?
YOU'RE NOT GETTING THE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK, OTONASHI-SAN?
.....
SORRY.
OH, YOU'RE NOT USING A SOFT B**NK PHONE?
FORGET IT. IT COSTS MONEY TO CALL HER CELL.
I'LL CALL YOU, MERU-CHAN.
HELLO
THE MEDIA WILL DESTROY ME!
BULLIES HAVE INFIL-TRATED MY CLASS-ROOM!
THEY'RE PRACTI-CALLY BULLYING YOU!
BYE-BYE!
MERU-CHAN WON'T ANSWER HER PHONE.
BESIDES, THERE AREN'T EVEN THAT MANY PEOPLE WHO USE SOFT B**K.
MERU-CHAN WASN'T BULLIED, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO HIDE ANYTHING.
UH...OUR INVESTIGATION DETERMINED THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY KIND OF BULLYING TOOK PLACE IN THE CLASSROOM.
WE NEED A NETWORK THAT COVERS EVERY INCH OF OUR POPULATION.
WE NEED TO ESTABLISH A STRONGER NETWORK, SO THAT WE CAN REPORT SUCH EMERGENCIES AS THEY HAPPEN.
BUT RECENTLY BULLYING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HAVE BECOME SERIOUS ISSUES IN OUR SOCIETY.


SENSEI, YOU FORGOT TO WRITE IN YOUR DIARY YESTERDAY, DIDN'T YOU?

SENSEI, YOU WERE TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP LAST NIGHT, WEREN'T YOU? YOU SAID, "I DON'T WANNA DIE!"

SENSEI, WEREN'T YOU SHOPPING IN SHIBUYA YESTERDAY?

...WHERE NEIGHBORS ARE CONSTANTLY KEEPING TABS ON EACH OTHER.
AAHHHH!
WE'VE BECOME A CULTURE OF INFORMANTS...

WE KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.

THIS IS AN EMER-GENCY!
THE LITTLE SCREW OF MY GLASSES IS MISSING!

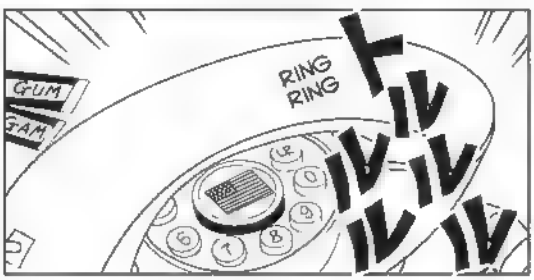
AH!
FWOOP

RING RING
CLICK
EMERGENCY?

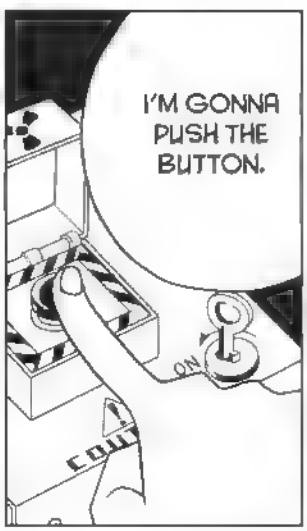
HELLO, THIS IS SHINZO ABE.

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY.
HE LOST THE SCREW FOR HIS GLASSES?

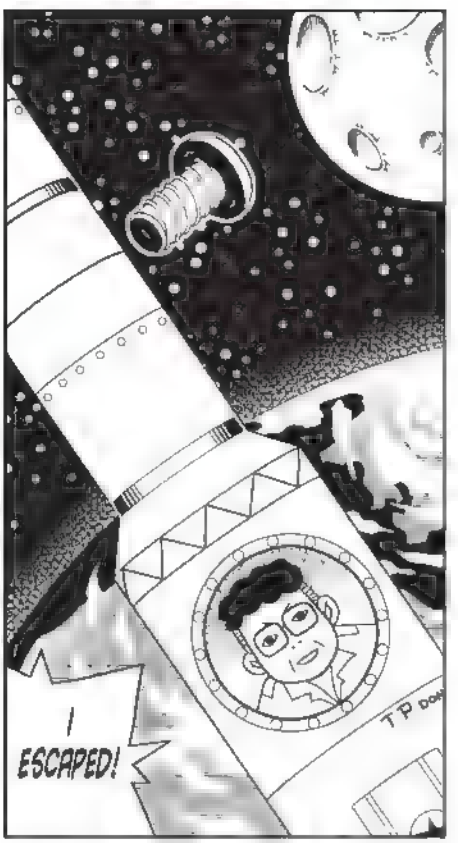
HELLO, BUSH SPEAKING.


RING RING
GUM
GAM

THE EARTH WAS DESTROYED ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR GLASSES, SENSEI.


I'M GONNA PUSH THE BUTTON.
ON

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY.
HE LOST THE SCREW FOR HIS GLASSES?


I
ESCAPED!

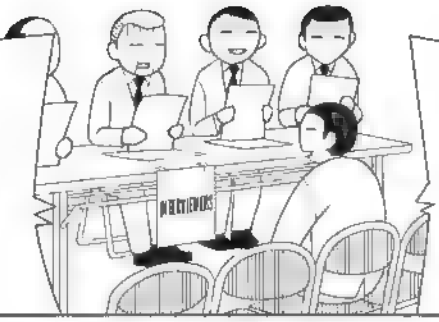
CHAPTER 80

PRIVATE
KOHARA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ENTRANCE EXAMINATION ROOM
GOOD LUCK TO EVERYBODY WHO'S TAKING COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS.
YOU KNOW, THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF EXAMS OUT THERE.
SENSEI.
キットカッツ取扱店
暴大入試合格店

THERE ARE SOME EXAMS THAT EVERY-ONE PASSES. THEY HAVE A FAILURE RATE OF ZERO.
BUT NOT ALL OF THEM ARE CHALLENGING.
YOU MEAN LIKE WHEN THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH STUDENTS APPLYING SO THEY LET EVERYONE IN?
A FAILURE RATE OF ZERO?
THERE ARE MANY EXAMS OUT THERE WITH FAILURE RATES OF ZERO.
I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS...

THOSE ARE JUST A FEW SAD EXAMPLES OF COMPETITIONS WITH A ZERO FAILURE RATE.

...ONLY ONE APPLICANT.

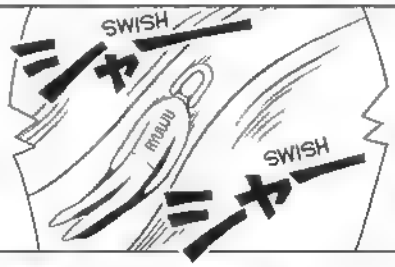


LIKE AN INTERVIEW FOR A JOB THAT HAS FIVE POSITIONS AVAILABLE, AND...

...BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE CONTESTANT.

OR A SMALL-TOWN BEAUTY CONTEST WHERE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO CROWN A GRAND PRIZE WINNER AND A RUNNER UP...

...AT THE NATIONAL ATHLETICS COMPETITION!



OR HAVING ONLY ONE ATHLETE REPRESENTING AN ENTIRE PREFECTURE...

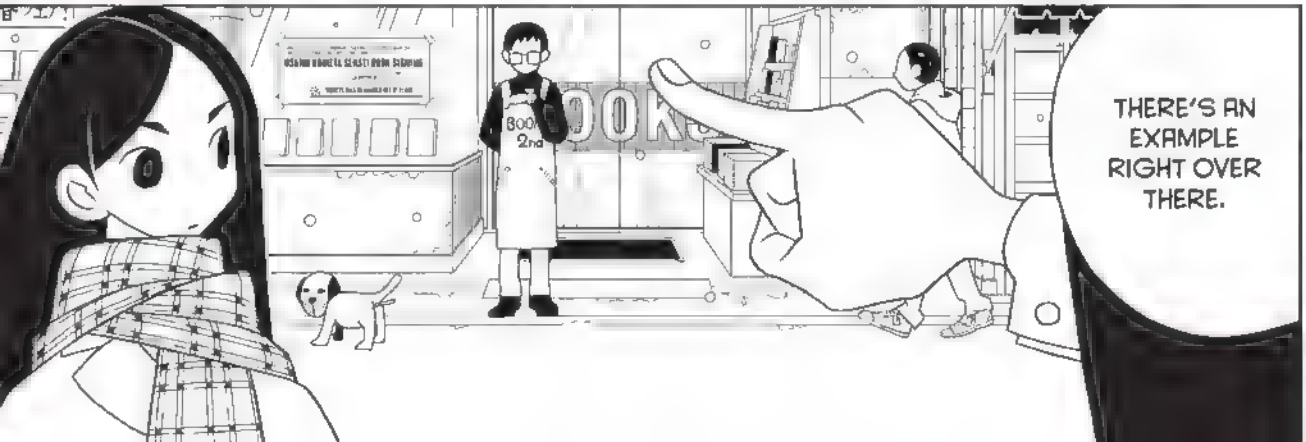
AND THESE DAYS MANY COMPANIES ARE SHORTHANDED AS WELL.

40 PERCENT OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AND 50 PERCENT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES AREN'T FILLED TO CAPACITY.

OF COURSE IT'S NOT JUST EXAMS. THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF COMPETITIONS WITH ZERO FAILURE RATES IN OUR WORLD.

DON'T SAY BOOM.

THERE'S A HUGE BOOM IN THE ZERO FAILURE RATE EXAM!



THERE'S AN EXAMPLE RIGHT OVER THERE.

SPECIAL EVENT COMMEMORATING THE RELEASE OF
DEEP STAGNATION VOLUME TWO

OSAMU KOMETA SENSEI BOOK SIGNING

LIMITED TO THE FIRST
50 PEOPLE

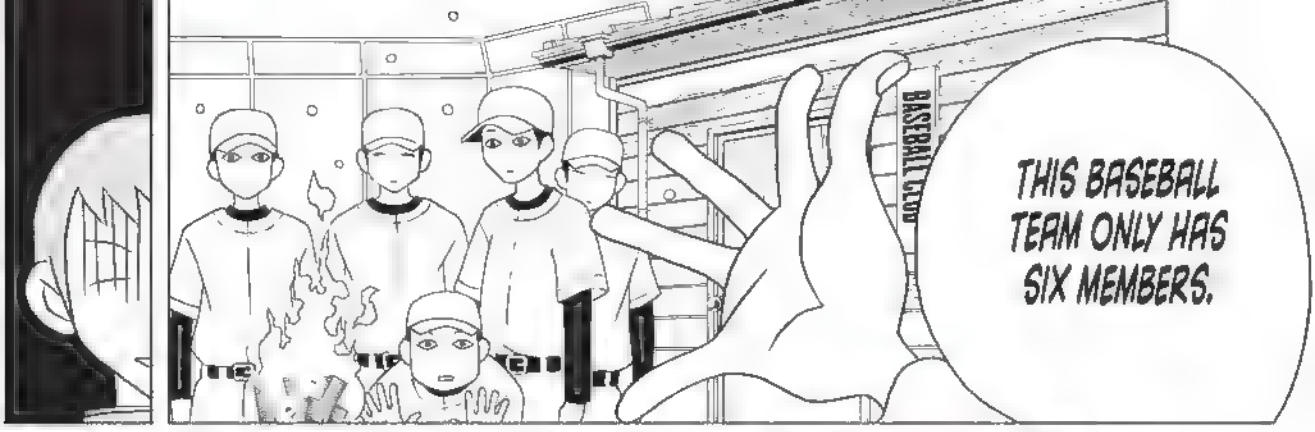
※ TICKETS WILL BE HANDED OUT AT 11 AM

...HURT THE AUTHOR'S FEELINGS.
AT BOOK SIGNINGS WITH ZERO COMPETITION, THEY MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS SO AS NOT TO...
SALES ASSOCIATE
PART TIME EMPLOYEE
SALES ASSOCIATE
SALES ASSOCIATE
PART TIME EMPLOYEE

MAYBE THEY'RE PACIFISTS WHO ARE IDEOLOGICALLY OPPOSED TO COMPETITION.
BUT MAYBE PEOPLE HAVE A REASON FOR TAKING THESE ZERO FAILURE RATE EXAMS.
BUT STICKING TO EXAMS WITH *A FAILURE RATE OF ZERO* MEANS LEADING A LIFE WHERE THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A LOSER.
IF YOU COMPETE, THAT MEANS SOMEONE HAS TO LOSE.
...AS A LOSER?
NO SUCH THING...
SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S CONVINCED YOU TO CHANGE YOUR MIND YET AGAIN.
ACTUALLY, THAT MIGHT BE A VERY RESPECTABLE WAY TO LIVE.
IN FACT, AS AN EDUCATOR, I SHOULD BE PROMOTING EXAMS WITH A ZERO FAILURE RATE!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LOST FAITH IN EXAMS WITH A FAILURE RATE OF ZERO.
I WAS WRONG...

KUDO-KUN IS SO HOT.
KYA
きゃっ
KYA
きゃっ
YEAH, BUT THERE'S A LOT OF COMPETITION.
新刊!!
THE CRAB FROM IOU ISLAND
IF YOU WIN HIS HEART, THEN SOME-ONE ELSE WILL BE ON THE LOSING END.
SWIP
ぬっ
HUH?
OR MAYBE YOU'LL BE THE ONE TO LOSE.
I DID IT
WHY NOT GO FOR A GUY...
...YOU WON'T HAVE TO COMPETE FOR?
MIKIO
KAZUNORI
SATOSHI
THERE'S ZERO COMPETITION FOR THESE GUYS. LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.
YOU CAN CHOOSE WHOEVER YOU LIKE.
I DON'T THINK SO!

WELL, THERE'S A LOT OF...
...COMPETITION FOR ME.
ONLY IN ANIME AND VIDEO GAMES.
OH YEAH?
I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU!
I LOVE YOU.
MEN CONFESS THEIR LOVE TO ME ALL THE TIME!
WELL, YOU DO.
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I LIVE IN SOME FANTASY WORLD!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT?
I'M THINKING OF JOINING A CLUB.
WELL...
...I'M SURE AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU DURING YOUR LIFETIME.
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE A ZERO COMPETITION WOMAN.
WANNA JOIN A CLUB WITH ZERO COMPETITION?


BASEBALL CLUB
THIS BASEBALL TEAM ONLY HAS SIX MEMBERS.

AHH, I CAN'T GET THROUGH.

YEAH, BUT...
IT'S NOT LIKE HE HAS ANY COMPETI-TION.
COME ON, GUYS. AREN'T YOU GONNA HAVE HIM TRY OUT FOR THE TEAM?

TOKYO DO
LET'S GO SEE A CONCERT WHERE THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPETITION FOR GETTING A TICKET.

IT'S NOT WORTH FIGHTING OVER.
THERE'S A LOT OF COMPETI-TION FOR THESE TICKETS.

...LIMITED EDITION.
HOW ABOUT BUYING A ZERO COM-PETITION...

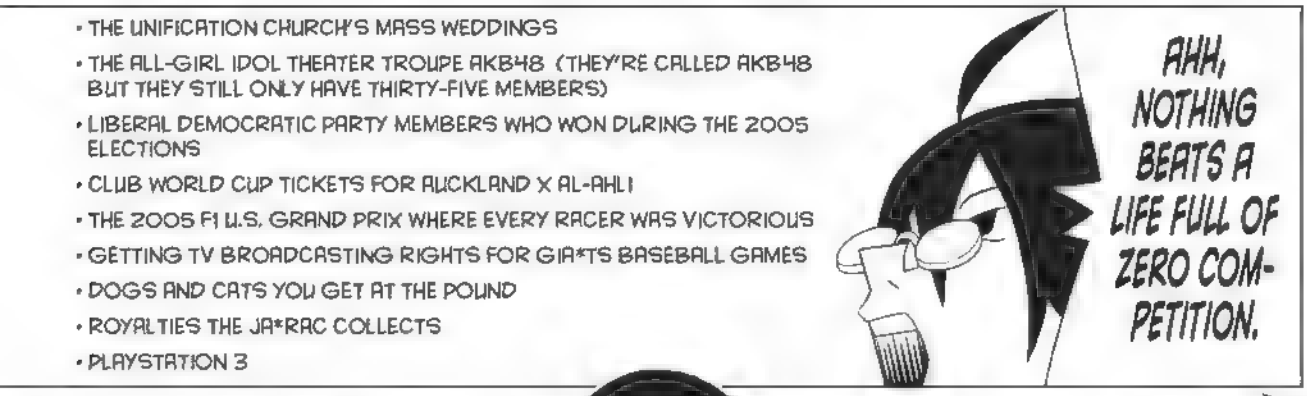
YOINK
VENETTA CHAN
VENETTA-CHAN FIGURE
IF I DON'T BUY THE LIMITED EDITION NOW, THEY'LL SELL OUT.

I BROUGHT YOU THE RANGERS FROM SECRET S***DRON FIVE.
IF IT'S SECRET S***DRON FIVE, THEN HOW COME THERE'S ONLY THREE OF THEM?

I WANNA BE A SUPERHERO TOO.
OZEKI

...IN REALITY THERE'S NO COMPETITION.
OH.
YES, BUT THE WINNER IS PRE-DETERMINED, SO...
BUT THERE ARE SEVEN DIFFERENT COMPANIES BIDDING ON THE CONTRACT, AREN'T THERE?
THAT'S A BIDDING WAR WITH ZERO COMPETITION.
BIDS
CITY HALL

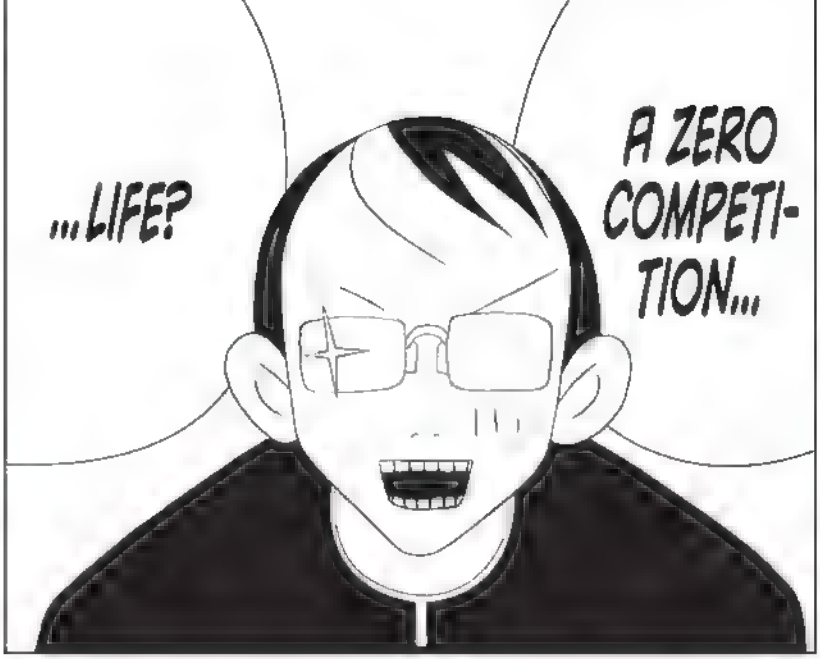
- THE UNIFICATION CHURCH'S MASS WEDDINGS
- THE ALL-GIRL IDOL THEATER TROUPE AKB48 (THEY'RE CALLED AKB48 BUT THEY STILL ONLY HAVE THIRTY-FIVE MEMBERS)
- LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS WHO WON DURING THE 2005 ELECTIONS
- CLUB WORLD CUP TICKETS FOR AUCKLAND X AL-AHLI
- THE 2005 F1 U.S. GRAND PRIX WHERE EVERY RACER WAS VICTORIOUS
- GETTING TV BROADCASTING RIGHTS FOR GIA*TS BASEBALL GAMES
- DOGS AND CATS YOU GET AT THE POUND
- ROYALTIES THE JA*RAC COLLECTS
- PLAYSTATION 3

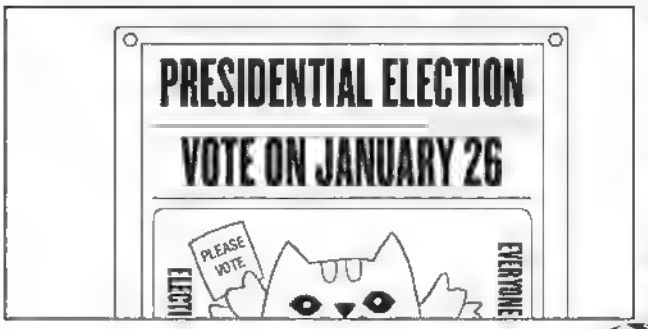


AND GET A JOB AT A COMPANY WHERE THERE'S ZERO COM-PETITION.
BROKEN CORPORATION
ANYBODY CAN GET IN
THIRD-RATE UNIVERSITY
YOU GET INTO A COLLEGE WHERE THERE'S ZERO COM-PETITION.
MOVE INTO A CONDO THAT HAS ZERO COM-PETITION.
MODEL CONDO OPEN HOUSE
SUPER CHEAP
NO LOAN GUARANTEE REQUIRED
FIND YOURSELF A BRIDE WITH ZERO COMPETI-TION.

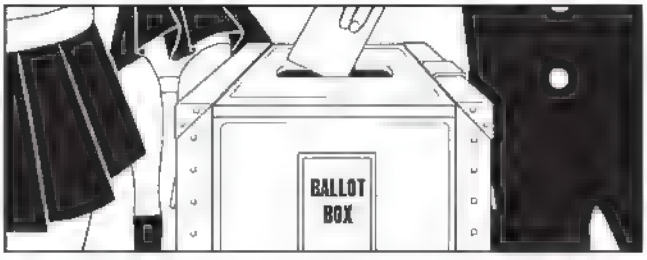
JOSRAC 出0611561-602

WHY MAKE A SONG OUT OF IT?
OH, OH, I WANT A ZERO COMPETITION LIFE!
YEAH, YEAH, ZERO COMPETITION LIFE!
THEN GET BURIED IN A GRAVEYARD WITH ZERO COMPETITION.
MY GRAVE
THIS SPOT FOR SALE
THIS SPOT FOR SALE!
SPOT SALE

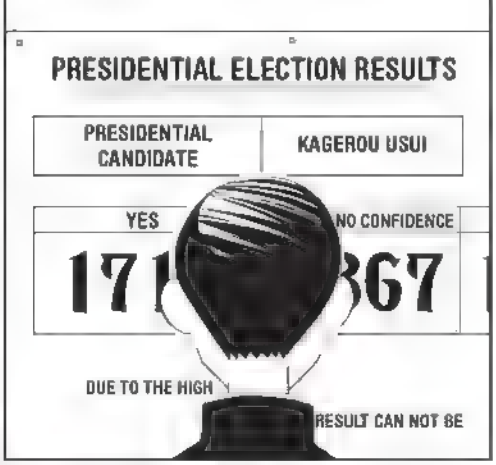




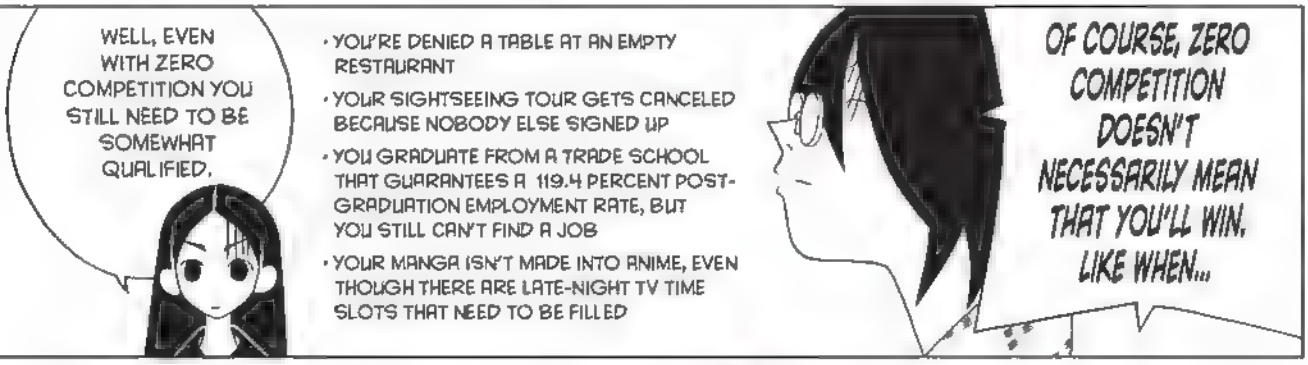
...I WILL CHANGE SCHOOL POLICY AND ALLOW STUDENTS TO WEAR ANY KIND OF HAIRSTYLE THEY CHOOSE.
CAMPAIGN PROMISES
• SHONEN MAGAZINE WILL BE SOLD ON TUESDAYS.
• SHONEN SUNDAY WILL BE SOLD ON THURSDAYS.
• I WILL NEVER USE THE WORD "DREAM."
• COMPLETE FREEDOM OF HAIRSTYLE CHOICE.
KAGEROU USUI
KAGEROU USUI
2-F CLASS LEADER
WHEN I BECOME PRESIDENT....



YES VOTES	VOTES OF NO CONFIDENCE	INVALID VOTES
171	367	15


PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
KAGEROU USUI
YES
NO CONFIDENCE
171
367
DUE TO THE HIGH
RESULT CAN NOT BE

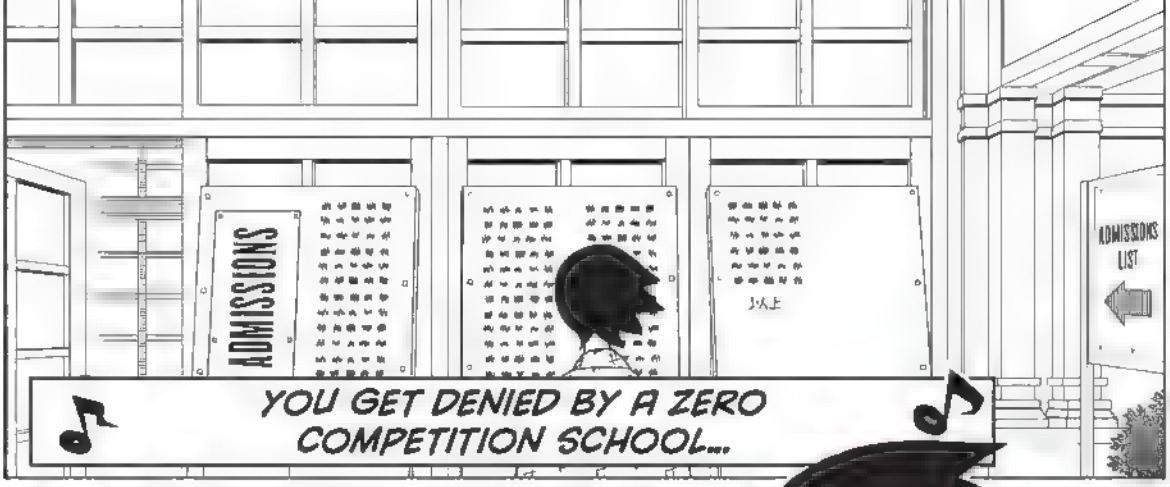
...ZERO COMPETITION.
HE STILL MANAGED TO LOSE EVEN WITH...


WELL, EVEN WITH ZERO COMPETITION YOU STILL NEED TO BE SOMEWHAT QUALIFIED.
• YOU'RE DENIED A TABLE AT AN EMPTY RESTAURANT
• YOUR SIGHTSEEING TOUR GETS CANCELED BECAUSE NOBODY ELSE SIGNED UP
• YOU GRADUATE FROM A TRADE SCHOOL THAT GUARANTEES A 119.4 PERCENT POST-GRADUATION EMPLOYMENT RATE, BUT YOU STILL CAN'T FIND A JOB
• YOUR MANGA ISN'T MADE INTO ANIME, EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE LATE-NIGHT TV TIME SLOTS THAT NEED TO BE FILLED
OF COURSE, ZERO COMPETITION DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN THAT YOU'LL WIN. LIKE WHEN...

I'VE LOST ALL FAITH IN THIS SOCIETY WHERE YOU CAN LOSE EVEN WHEN THERE'S ZERO COMPETITION.
IT'S HOPELESS!

DA-DAN ♪

...REALLY HELP ANY-BODY.
I DON'T THINK EXAMS WITH ZERO COMPETITION AND A ZERO FAILURE RATE...



NOZOMU ITOSHIKI-SAMA
FAILURE NOTICE
WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT AT THIS TIME WE CANNOT OFFER YOU A POSITION IN OUR FIRM.
...TURNED DOWN BY A ZERO COMPETITION JOB...

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 9

THERE'S DEFINITELY SOME COMPETITION OUT THERE WHEN IT COMES TO YOU, SENSEI.
HUH?
YEP, VERY TOUGH COMPETITION.

CURRENT CHARGES FROM THIS ISSUE

LETTER OF ACCUSATION

PLAINTIFF:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: KAERE KIMURA

DEFENDANT:
OCCUPATION: HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
NAME: NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

DATE: OCTOBER 6
ATTN: CHIEF OF POLICE

- ACCUSATION

THE ACTS BY THE DEFENDANT AS STATED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER JAPANESE CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 204 (INFLICTION OF BODILY HARM), AND THIS COMPLAINT IS MADE TO PURSUE SEVERE PUNISHMENT TO BE HANDED OUT TO THE DEFENDANT.

1. FACTS REGARDING THE ACCUSATION

WHILE WE WERE ON A FIELD TRIP IN MID-NOVEMBER, THE DEFENDANT SUDDENLY ATTEMPTED TO HOLD ME AS WE STOOD ON THE RIVER BANK. WHILE STRUGGLING TO GET AWAY, I SLIPPED AND FELL DOWN A FLIGHT OF STAIRS WHILE STILL BEING HELD IN THE DEFENDANT'S ARMS.

THE DEFENDANT HIT THE GROUND QUITE HARD AND THEREFORE HE DID NOT MAKE ANY FURTHER ADVANCES. I HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS DUE TO THE DEFENDANT'S BEHAVIOR.

TO BE PRECISE, I HAVE BEGUN TO REACT NEGATIVELY TOWARD ALL THINGS JAPANESE, INCLUDING JAPANESE FOOD, CULTURE, AND LANGUAGE. THIS HAS MADE EVERYDAY LIFE IN JAPAN A VERY TRYING EXPERIENCE. IN FACT, MY PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA HAS, ON OCCASION, LED TO PHYSICAL PAIN SUCH AS HEADACHES AND ABDOMINAL PAIN.

I BELIEVE THAT THE DISGUST I FEEL FOR THE DEFENDANT IS SO STRONG, IT HAS LED ME TO ALSO BE DISGUSTED BY THE COUNTRY, CULTURE, AND LANGUAGE THAT I ASSOCIATE WITH HIM.

THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTS, WHICH HAVE CAUSED ME SEVERE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL PAIN, FALL UNDER JAPANESE LAW ARTICLE 204 (INFLICTION OF BODILY HARM), AND I HEREBY FILE THIS CHARGE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE SUSPECT BE SENTENCED TO THE STRICTEST PUNISHMENT POSSIBLE.

2. EVIDENCE
WITNESS - CHIRI KITSU

PAPER BLOGS

PREAMBLE

AS IT SAYS ON THE COVER, MY MANGA IS GOING TO BE MADE INTO A TV ANIME. YOU MIGHT BE WONDERING WHY. DON'T SOUND EXCITED...BUT I MUST SAY THAT'S PARTIALLY EVERYBODY'S FAULT. WHEN I FIRST GOT THE NEWS, I WAS SO HAPPY THAT I WENT OUT TO BUY A CELEBRATORY CHOCOLATE CAKE. I REALLY WANTED TO TELL EVERYBODY, BUT IT WASN'T OFFICIAL YET, SO I JUST MADE A VAGUE REFERENCE TO IT IN VOLUME 7. NOBODY BELIEVED ME. NOT ONLY DID THEY NOT BELIEVE ME, I GOT A POSTCARD: "IT'S SO HUMBLE OF YOU TO PLUG YOUR APPRENTICE'S NEW ANIME." WHAT THE F**K?! I DON'T EVEN HAVE AN APPRENTICE. AND IF I DID, I WOULD FEEL NOTHING BUT BITTER ENVY TOWARD HIM. I WOULD SAY THINGS LIKE "HOPE IT TURNS INTO A BIG PIECE OF CRAP!" OR "HOPE YOU MARRY A CRAZY VOICEOVER ACTRESS!" I REALLY WONDERED WHY MY READER WOULD SAY THAT, AND SUDDENLY I FREAKED OUT AND STARTED THINKING *IS IT HAPPENING AGAIN?* OF COURSE IT IS. SOMEBODY WHO LIKES MY MANGA ENOUGH TO BUY A TANKOBON OF IT WOULD NEVER LIE TO ME. WHAT WAS I THINKING? MY MANGA IS NEVER GONNA BE MADE INTO AN ANIME! MY DOUBT SOON TURNED INTO CONVICTION, AND HERE I AM. THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE IMPOSSIBLE IT SEEMS. SOME RICH GUY OUT THERE PROBABLY SET THIS WHOLE THING UP JUST TO MAKE FUN OF ME. THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE WAY THE STAFF'S BEEN TREATING ME. THEY SAY THE ANIME WILL BE AIRING ON CHANNEL 4, WHICH MAKES ME THINK THEY MUST'VE FOUND OUT THAT I DON'T GET CHANNEL 4 AT HOME. BUT THE PERSON BEHIND THIS SCAM MADE ONE MISTAKE. I GET MX! I'M GONNA WATCH IT ON MX! THEY'LL PROBABLY END UP GOING WITH AN ANIME BASED ON SOME MANGA PUBLISHED BY COMIC YOSHIMOTO. THEY CAN'T FOOL ME. IF BY SOME ODD CHANCE MY ANIME DOES COME ON, I'M GONNA SING THIS SONG.

ANIME IS JUST A LIE, ANIME DOES NOT EXIST, I WAS JUST SEEING THINGS, IT'S ALL AN ILLUSION. ♪

BUT THERE IS A PART OF ME...A LITTLE PART OF ME...THAT WANTS TO SEE IT! ♪ ANIME IS JUST A LIE,
ANIME DOES NOT EXIST. ♪

DUTY

LOOKS LIKE NHK VIEWER FEES WILL SOON BECOME OBLIGATORY. WHY DON'T WE JUST MAKE EVERYTHING ELSE OBLIGATORY TOO?

BUYING JUMP, DS, AND KORO KORO COMICS COULD BE MADE AN OBLIGATORY PART OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION. WE COULD LIVE IN AN OBLIGATORY SOCIETY WHERE EVERYTHING IS DONE OUT OF OBLIGATION. EVERYBODY WOULD START TURNING AGAINST JUMP BECAUSE THEY WERE OBLIGATED TO BUY IT. HEE HEE...AHH, WHAT AN UGLY HEART I HAVE. IT BOTHERS ME THAT PEOPLE SAY I'M OBLIGATED TO MAKE NASTY COMMENTS LIKE THIS. JEALOUSY, ENVY, AND SPITE AREN'T MY TOP THREE OBLIGATORY BEHAVIORS.

BY THE WAY, AS JAPANESE CITIZENS WE'RE OBLIGATED TO PURCHASE ACTRESS AOI MIYAZAKI'S PHOTO FOR 10,000 YEN. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.

IN FACT, I'M ALSO OBLIGATED TO PROTECT THE PLANET'S FUTURE. I MUST STOP US FROM CONVERGING WITH THE PARALLEL WORLD, WHICH COULD...ETC., ETC.

PORTABILITY

IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE PEOPLE STARTED SAYING I'VE RUN OUT OF CREATIVE IDEAS. MY ARTISTIC STYLE AND TECHNIQUE HAVE BLOWN AWAY WITH THE WIND. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? I'M SOMEHOW MANAGING TO SURVIVE BY RECYCLING MY OLD IDEAS.

IT'S REALLY NOT SO BAD, SINCE I'M AT LEAST AWARE OF THE FACT THAT I'M RECYCLING OLD IDEAS. I'M JUST A LOWLY BUG WHO CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT HE WROTE IN THE PAST. I CAN'T STOP MYSELF FROM AGING. I'M DEFINITELY GETTING OLD. SO I'VE DECIDED TO JUST FORGET ABOUT EVERYTHING.

I'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE PHOTO OF MY BARE BUTT THAT RAN IN THAT TANKOBON. I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION ABOUT THE HOSTESS CLUB MANGA THAT WAS CANCELED ALMOST AS SOON AS IT STARTED RUNNING. I'M ASS DEEP IN OBLIVION, AND A DARK FUTURE LIES AHEAD. I NO LONGER HAVE ANY NEED FOR MEMORIES.

BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT THE CAPCOM EMPLOYEES WHO COMPLETELY IGNORED ME WHEN I WAS HAVING A DRINK WITH K-YAMA K-JI.

RITE OF PASSAGE

WELL... IT'S SORT OF LIKE AN INITIATION PROCESS THAT EXISTS IN ANY FIELD.

FOR HIS SECOND SERIES, A MANGA ARTIST IS GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DO A SERIES THAT HE REALLY WANTS TO WORK ON, AND IT FAILS. IT'S ALMOST LIKE A RITE OF PASSAGE.

LIKE WHEN YOU GO TO A FRIEND'S WEDDING, AND A LITTLE KID SAYS, "YOU'RE A MANGA ARTIST, RIGHT? CAN YOU DRAW SAILOR MOON?" OR YOUR CREDIT CARD APPLICATION IS DENIED, OR YOU OVERHEAR SOMEONE AT A CONVENIENCE STORE SAYING YOUR MANGA SUCKS, OR YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU NOT TO WRITE ANYTHING VULGAR, OR THE PUBLIC SECURITY INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BREAKS INTO YOUR STUDIO, OR SOME AMERICAN YELLS, "HEY, MANGA MANGA!" AT YOU INSTEAD OF USING YOUR NAME, OR RECEIVING A COPY OF YOUR MANGA IN THE MAIL FROM AN UPSET FAN WHO WANTS TO RETURN IT... THIS IS THE BLOODCURDLING INITIATION THAT ALL MANGA ARTISTS MUST GO THROUGH.

SABBATH! SABBATH! IT'S A RITE OF PASSAGE. IT'S A PATH THAT EVERYONE MUST TRAVEL... I GUESS.

FORGETTING YOUR AGE

MY KNEES BUCKLE EVEN WHEN NOBODY'S KICKING THEM FROM BEHIND. AN OLD MAN WRITING SHONEN MANGA IS COMPLETELY AGE INAPPROPRIATE. I APOLOGIZE FOR WRITING MANGA WITH TEENAGE CHARACTERS. I MUST WRITE SOMETHING MORE AGE APPROPRIATE... AT LEAST I SHOULD TRY.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE STORY OF AN AGING SALESMAN WHO IS SO ASHAMED OF HIS OWN BODY ODOR THAT HE CONSTANTLY POURS WATER OVER HIMSELF, OR AN ARTIST WHO COLLECTS EACH HAIR HE LOSES AND MAKES A REPLICA OF HIMSELF OUT OF IT, OR A MIDDLE-AGED MAN LIVING IN A FANTASY WORLD WHO CAN'T SEE TINKERBELL'S FACE FROM UP CLOSE BECAUSE HE SUFFERS FROM PRESBYOPIA, OR A ROMANTIC COMEDY ABOUT AN OLD MAN WHO GOES OUT TO DINNER AND KARAOKE WITH A YOUNG GIRL AND GIVES HER MONEY BUT DOESN'T DO ANYTHING.

I'M PRETTY SURE THOSE WOULD SELL. I SHOULDN'T WRITE SHONEN MANGA ANYMORE.

I HEARD A YOUNG BOY PLAYING BASEBALL YELLING, "BOMBARDIER!" AS HE SLID INTO THE BASE HEADFIRST. I WAS IMPRESSED TO HEAR SUCH A SURREAL EXAMPLE OF AN AGE-INAPPROPRIATE JOKE.

INFECTION

I RECEIVED A COMPLAINT FROM A FAN OF A CERTAIN MANGA ARTIST, BUT I NEVER ACTUALLY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THIS MANGA ARTIST. I WAS ACTUALLY REFERRING TO THAT "OTHER" MANGA ARTIST. BUT BOTH OF THEM ARE MAKING MORE MONEY THAN I AM ANYWAY, SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

THE CERTAIN MANGA ARTIST I WAS REFERRING TO (A WOMAN) CAME DOWN WITH AN INFECTION. THE INFECTION SPREAD TO HER STAFF, AND NOW THEY ALL WEAR THE SAME KINDS OF FRILLY OUTFITS.

VIRAL INFECTIONS CAN BE SCARY, BUT DON'T WORRY... THIS MANGA IS NOT INFECTIOUS.

YOU'LL BE THE LAST ONE TO READ IT.

UNWANTED PRESENTS

DESPITE THE FACT THAT I PUT SO MUCH TIME AND EFFORT INTO DRAWING THE BONUS SELF ANIME (NOT A FLIPBOOK!), I'M AFRAID THAT PEOPLE ARE GONNA THINK IT'S WORTHLESS. IN ORDER TO MAKE IT EVEN MORE UNDESIRABLE, I DECIDED TO ADD A THEME SONG THAT GOES WITH IT.

I APOLOGIZED TO THE SLACKER IN THE WEST. DECEIVED BY THE NORTH I LEFT ON MY JOURNEY. I HEADED SOUTH TO COLLECT THE RANSOM. "HIDE OUT IN THE EAST," SAID A FORGOTTEN RELATIVE. WITH THE NEW CG ANYONE CAN BE AN INTERNET IDOL. THIS IS A GIFT FOR YOU, AS YOU DEPART TOWARD YOUR NEXT LIFE. A GRADUATION ANTHOLOGY OF YOUR DREAMS. I'M GONNA BE A VOICEOVER ACTOR IN MY NEXT LIFE. LA LA LA, NEXT LIFE, NEXT LIFE, NEXT LIFE, LA LA LA, NEXT LIFE, NEXT LIFE, LA LA LA. *GENUFLECTING IS PART OF MY DAILY ROUTINE. PEOPLE WHO LOOK INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S EYES WHEN THEY TALK, CON ARTISTS, POLITICIANS, STUDENTS RETURNING FROM STUDIES ABROAD, CHASING AFTER ACTORS AND VOICEOVER ARTISTS. JUMPING OVER THE RIVERS OF EXCLUSIVITY. THE TECHNOLOGICAL LEAPS OF THE INTERNET LEAD TO SUPERFICIAL FRIENDSHIPS. I'M SENDING YOU A DIPLOMA OF LOVE. *REPEAT

presented by KOJI KUMETA

GROWN-UP TRICKS

THE PHRASES "CHILDISH TRICK" AND "GROWN-UP TRICK" DON'T SOUND TOO SERIOUS, BUT WHEN YOU SAY "SHONEN (YOUNG BOY) TRICK" OR "SHOJO (YOUNG GIRL) TRICK," IT SUDDENLY SOUNDS LIKE A CRIME.

AS I WAS MULLING OVER THIS IDIOTIC THOUGHT, I SUDDENLY STARTED FEELING GUILTY. ISN'T WRITING WORTHLESS MANGA FOR *SHONEN MAGAZINE* A SORT OF SHONEN TRICK?

I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT I'M COMMITTING A KIND OF CRIME AGAINST SOCIETY. IF I EVER WROTE MANGA FOR A SHOJO MAGAZINE (NOT THAT I'VE HAD ANY OFFERS), THAT WOULD DEFINITELY BE AN EXAMPLE OF SHOJO TRICKERY. I WOULD TOTALLY GET ARRESTED. I WOULD BE OSTRACIZED BY SOCIETY.

YOU MAY SAY, "DON'T WORRY. THE AVERAGE AGE OF *SHONEN MAGAZINE* READERS IS PRETTY HIGH," BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP ME FROM FEELING LIKE A CRIMINAL.

HOW CAN I EVER BE FORGIVEN FOR THIS CRIME? CAN I BUY AN INDULGENCE TO COVER MY ACTS OF SHONEN TRICKERY? HOW ABOUT *SHONEN JUMP*? COULD BUYING *SHONEN JUMP* COUNT AS AN INDULGENCE? THEN I'LL BUY *SHONEN JUMP* EVERY WEEK AND MY CRIME WILL BE FORGIVEN. OF COURSE, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THE IDEA OF BUYING AN INDULGENCE IS A CRIME IN AND OF ITSELF.

OTHER PEOPLE'S DRAMA

ONE TIME, WHEN I WAS WATCHING TV, I SPOTTED MYSELF IN A TV DRAMA. IT WAS ME IN JUNIOR HIGH, WALKING THROUGH HARAJUKU... HMM, WHAT WAS I DOING IN HARAJUKU THAT DAY? I REMEMBERED EVERYTHING. I EVEN REMEMBERED WHAT I WAS WEARING. I WAS WEARING A DODGERS JACKET AND RED CONVERSE... THE REST OF MY OUTFIT WAS NOTHING SPECIAL. THE MORE I REMEMBERED, THE SADDER I BECAME. ACTUALLY, ALTHOUGH I WAS IN HARAJUKU, I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE ANIME STORE ANIME POLICE PERO IN SHINJUKU. TO BE MORE PRECISE, I WAS TRYING TO GET A COPY OF THE MAGAZINE *ANIMEC*. FOR SOME REASON, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO GET THERE FROM HARAJUKU. SUDDENLY I'M FEELING ANXIOUS AGAIN... I'VE STARTED THINKING ABOUT THE ANIME POLICE. IF THERE IS SUCH A THING AS THE ANIME POLICE, THEY'LL PROBABLY ARREST ME, EVEN IF MY MANGA DOES MAKE IT INTO A TV ANIME. I'LL BE CONVICTED, AND MY ANIME WILL BE CANCELED... BUT MY ANIME HASN'T EVEN STARTED YET. HOW COULD THEY ARREST ME? THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME OTHER ANIME CREATORS THEY SHOULD BE ARRESTING. PLEASE DON'T PICK ON ME JUST BECAUSE I'M AN EASY TARGET. IF THE ANIME POLICE SUDDENLY START INVESTIGATING ME, MY EDITOR MIGHT SAY, "YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT YOUR TV ANIME..." BUT THE EDITOR IN CHIEF SAID SOMETHING SO KIND TO ME. HE SAID THAT IF MY ANIME EVER GOT CANCELED, HE'D MAKE AN ANIME COMIC INSTEAD. HOW ARE YOU GONNA MAKE AN ANIME COMIC WITHOUT MAKING THE ANIME FIRST...?

EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK

THE CALL I GET FROM MY EDITOR EVERY WEEK IS A REAL EXAMPLE OF THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST NETWORK. THE PHONE IS RINGING RIGHT NOW AS I'M WRITING THIS. IT REALLY IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION. I HAVE NO IDEA WHY I'M WORKING ON THE BONUS PAGES RIGHT NOW... I'M SUFFERING FROM AN UNUSUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITION AT THE MOMENT. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

I'M REALLY BUMMED OUT.

ZERO COMPETITION

SOMEBODY PLEASE ABANDON ME, LEAVE ME IN A MAILBOX LIKE A NEWBORN BABY SOMEWHERE WHERE I'LL HAVE ZERO COMPETITION. I WANNA START LIFE ALL OVER AS A BABY. KITARO WILL MISTAKENLY PICK ME UP, THINKING I BELONG IN HIS YOUKAI MONSTER MAILBOX... AND THAT'S HOW YOUKAI TRASH MANGA IS BORN. YOUKAI TRASH MANGA CAUSES NOTHING BUT TROUBLE FOR HUMANITY. HE KEEPS DRAWING MANGA THAT UPSETS THE WORLD. HE WASTES PAPER AND ANGERS MOTHER EARTH. EVEN HIS STEPFATHER, KITARO, GETS FED UP AND KICKS HIM OUT. AFTER GETTING BEAT UP BY KITARO, YOUKAI TRASH MANGA CHANGES HIS TUNE AND STARTS DRAWING THE EVER-SO-POPULAR *MOE* MANGA. HE TRIES AND TRIES, BUT ALL HE CAN COME UP WITH IS GARBAGE. ONE DAY, TRASH MANGA REALIZES THAT HE NEEDS TO FIND A SECOND PAGE SO HE CAN DRAW A TWO-PAGE SPREAD. HE WANDERS THE FOREST IN DESPAIR, AND FINDS ANOTHER PAGE SITTING ALL ALONE ON A TREE STUMP. THEY TAKE EACH OTHER'S HANDS, AND A TWO-PAGE SPREAD CALLED "HAPPINESS" IS BORN. BUT THERE'S ONE PROBLEM. THOSE TWO PAGES ARE STUCK TOGETHER, AND NOBODY CAN READ THEM... THE END.

WHAT THE HELL KIND OF ENDING IS THAT? WHY BOTHER MAKING IT INTO A FEEL-GOOD STORY? THAT'S RIDICULOUS.

THE RIGHT PAGE WAS ACTUALLY THE LEFT PAGE, AND THE LEFT PAGE WAS ACTUALLY THE RIGHT PAGE. THE RIGHT PAGE WAS MERELY MASQUERADING AS THE LEFT PAGE. THE END.

KODANSHA COMICS #3818

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI 8

AUTHOR: KOJI KUMETA
EDITOR: TAKAO IGARASHI

I MUST SAY IT'S PRETTY EMBARRASSING.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE ANIME....

KUME PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

SELF ANIME (NOT A FLIPBOOK)

ANIMATION BY
MAEDAX

AMY CHAO

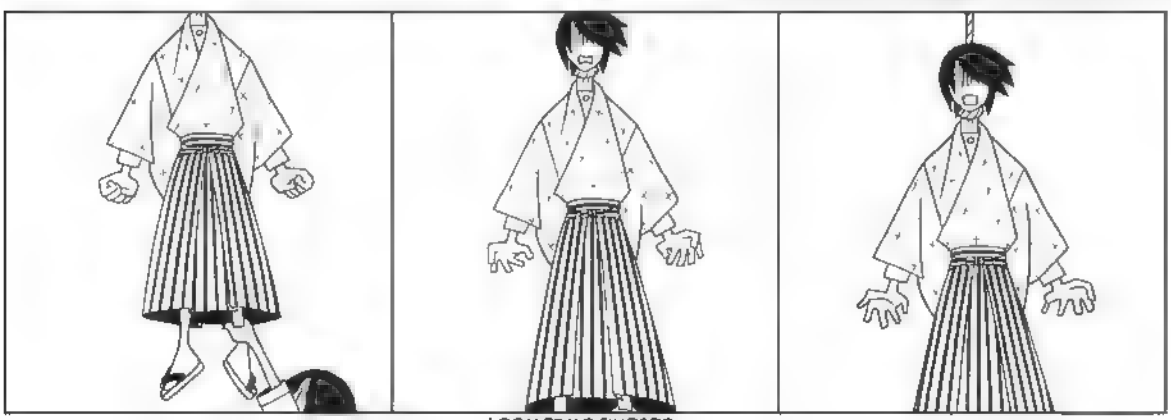
POTION

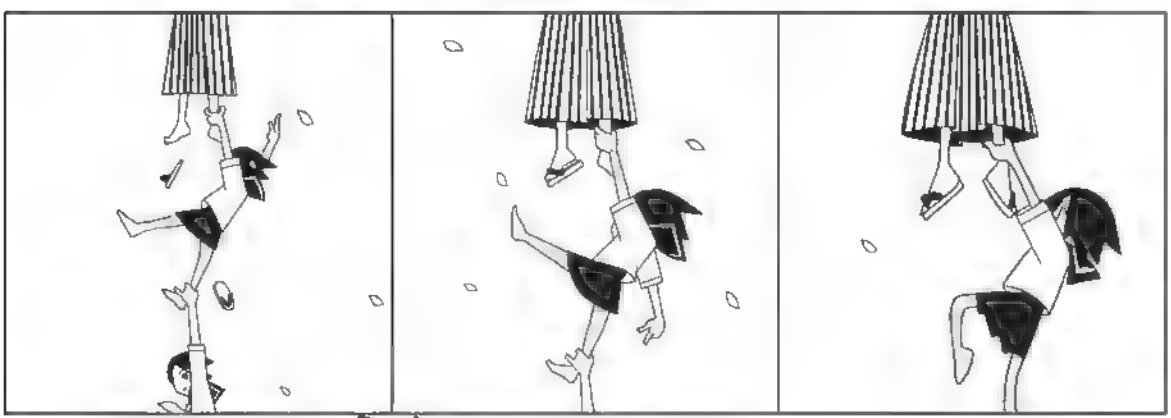
THE ANIME BEFORE THE ANIME?
THE STAFF WORKED AT HOME.
WE DIDN'T WORK AS A TEAM. THE ANIMATED ARTWORK WAS PRETTY MUCH DONE BY INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS.

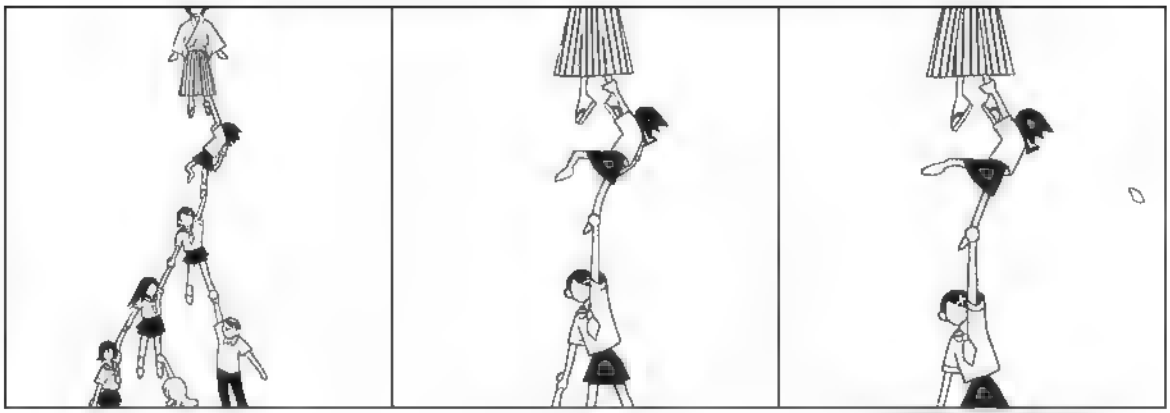
DRAWN BY INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS (ANIMATION)
I DREW EVERYTHING IN THIS ROW.
M
AMY
HE'S HOLDING THE BAG WITH HIS LEFT HAND NOW.
THAT'S MY FAULT.
PO
THEY CHANGED THE ANGLE BECAUSE IT'S HARD TO DRAW HIM FACING FORWARD.

SKRINCH
HIS SKIN IS LOOK NG NASTY.
DON'T ADD SOUND EFFECTS INSIDE THE PANE...
THE ROPE LOOKS DIFFERENT.

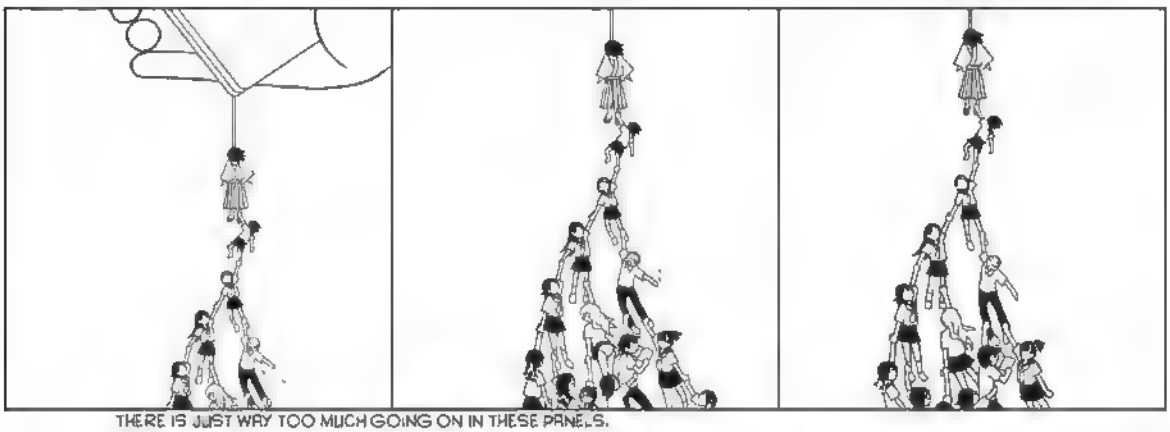
THE DESIGN ON HIS KIMONO 'S MISSING. THAT'S MY FAULT.


LOOK AT HIS FINGERS...

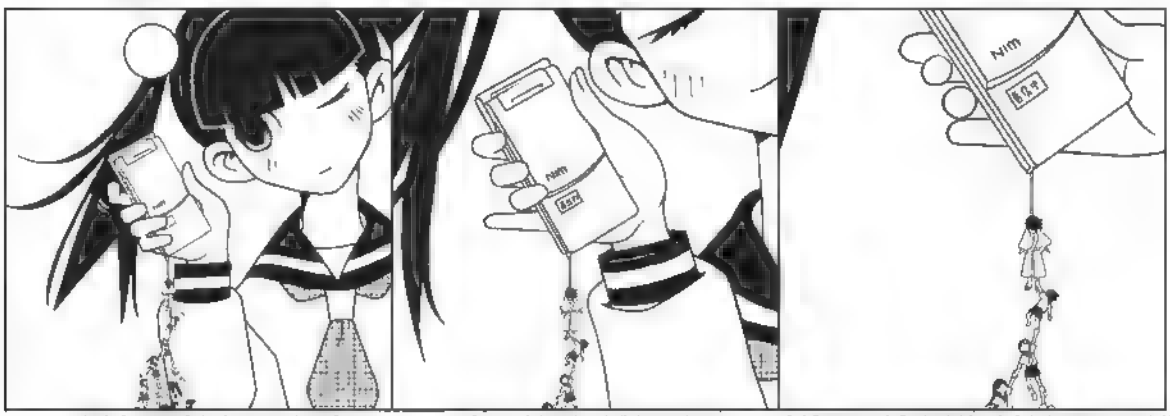

HIS SANDAL'S CAME OFF.
MARIA-CHAN IS MOVING TOO MUCH.



HIS SANDALS ARE BACK ON.



THERE IS JUST WAY TOO MUCH GOING ON IN THESE PANELS.



HER FINGERS ARE MOVING IN A REALLY WEIRD WAY.

THE TINY DANGLING FIGURES ARE MOVING TOO MUCH.

THE CELLPHONE CHANGED TO A DIFFERENT MODEL!

CONCLUSION

THE QUALITY BEGAN TO DETERIORATE VERY QUICKLY.

AMATEURS JUST CAN'T MAKE ANIME.

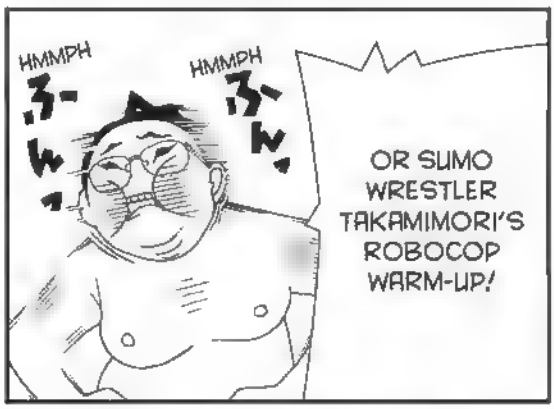
I'M REALLY SORRY THAT MY MANGA IS GONNA BE MADE INTO AN ANIME SERIES. I REALIZE NOW HOW HARD IT IS TO CREATE AN ANIME. I'M TRULY SORRY.

I WILL NEVER COMPLAIN ABOUT ANIME AGAIN.

*BY THE WAY, IT WAS THE STAFF'S DECISION TO USE THEIR NAMES IN THIS, SO THEY'LL BE SHOULDERING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS FAILURE.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. In the case of a text-dense manga like *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*, it's a delicate art indeed. Although most of the jokes are universal, Koji Kumeta is famous for filling his manga with references to Japanese politics, entertainment, *otaku* culture, religion, and sports. Unless you're a true Japanophile, it's difficult to understand it all without some serious background knowledge of current events at the time the manga was running. Kumeta also uses references to foreign literature and politics, so even Japanese readers probably don't get all the humor. For your reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the more obscure references and difficult-to-translate jokes in *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*.



Takamimori, page 9

Takamimori is a sumo wrestler who's famous for doing a little warm-up routine before each match wherein he breathes heavily while moving in a robotic fashion. This routine led former sumo champ Akebono to give him the nickname "Robocop."

Shiraishi, page 9

An employee at a Tokyo University of Agriculture student co-op store who was famous for his answers to the comment cards that customers posted on the bulletin board. Although the board was meant for questions pertaining to the store, college students would ask completely unrelated questions, sometimes silly, sometimes profound, all of which Shiraishi would answer. A collection of the questions and answers was published in a book, and also on his blog.

The Handkerchief, page 9

This is a reference to a high school baseball player named Saito, famous for using a blue handkerchief to wipe his brow during games. He became a media sensation and was dubbed "the Handkerchief Prince."

**ku Hata, page 10

This is referring to comedian Youku Hata. He rose to fame with his act Guitar Samurai, in which he wears a kimono and sings songs poking fun at celebrities.

Spread legs, page 10

Usui is looking at a photo of Taiwanese sex symbol Yinling of Joytoy. She's known for always having her legs spread when she does photo shoots.

INTRODUCING NEW FALL COLORS!
HAIR SALON TAKAO COMMENT BOARD
TODAY'S COMMENT
It's been really cold lately. Our staff, including the manager, had a nabe hot pot party last night. We had a blast!
As fall approaches, the trees are changing color. Why not color your hair with a hue that matches the new season?

***Nabe* hot pot,** page 12

A *nabe* is literally a large pot, but the term is used generically to describe any kind of soup, stew, or boiled dish made in a hot pot. Generally, the hot pot sits in the middle of the table, and each diner serves her or himself. It's a popular cold-weather food.

Masayuki Oguchi, page 14

A balding boxer whose wig once came off during a fight.

Toraburyuu's song, page 14

This refers to a song titled "Road." The song, a tribute to a dead lover, has a total of thirteen chapters.

The Red & White, page 14

The Red & White Singing Competition is a TV show that airs every New Year's Eve. Sachiko Kobayashi is a popular *enka* (Japanese folk) singer who wears extravagant costumes at each year's event.

Sealed pages, page 14

These magazine pages are sealed with cellophane to prevent minors from seeing inappropriate content. The pages also tempt people to shell out dough for the magazine, rather than just peeking at it in the shop.

Moss Burger, page 14

A popular Japanese fast food burger chain. Their stores often post photos and bios of the farmers who grow the veggies and produce they use.

Nami-hei, page 22

Nami-hei is a character from the long-running anime *Sazae-san*.

Bureaucracy, page 26

This refers to the formerly government-run Japan Highway Corporation.

Aizu and Choushuu, page 26

Aizu is now known as Fukushima prefecture, and Choushuu is now Yamaguchi prefecture. There was a war between the two in 1868.

A professor's sexual perversion, page 26

This refers to former college professor Kazuhide Uekusa, who was arrested several times for groping women on the train.

Baseball club, page 26

This is a reference to the baseball manga *Captain*.

Shinzaburou Hanpu, page 26

After a falling-out with his family's company, Shinzaburou Ichizawa started his own company and took their craftsmen with him.

A certain cult, page 26

The cult known as Aum Shirikyo is famous for orchestrating a sarin gas subway attacks. In the year 2000 they changed their name to Alef.

Tokyo Mutsugorou Kingdom, page 26

A well-known animal researcher opened Tokyo Mutsugorou Kingdom inside an amusement park called Tokyo Summer Land. Mutsugorou Kingdom closed due to financial trouble but later reopened under different management.

Tamori, page 31

A well-known comedian and host of the popular daytime variety show *Waratte Ii Tomo*.

Shichigosan, page 34

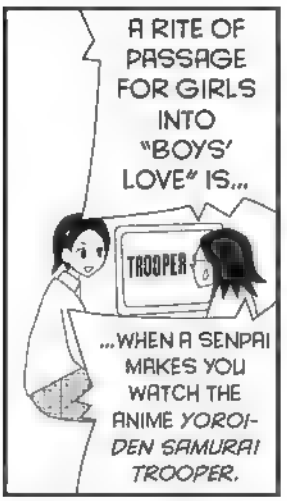
Shichigosan, literally meaning "Seven-Five-Three," is a Japanese holiday celebrating rites of passage for young children. Children of ages three, five, and seven celebrate by wearing kimonos, visiting local shrines, and being the subjects of lots of cute photographs.

Chitose Ame Candies, page 35

A candy wrapped in edible rice paper that children traditionally eat on Shichigosan.

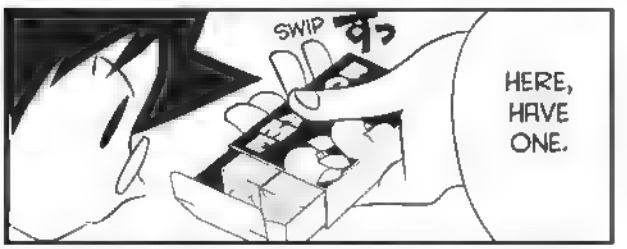
Boys' Love, page 43

Generally refers to *doujinshi* comics or manga that focus on homoerotic male relationships.



Yoroiden Samurai Trooper, page 43

Yoroiden Samurai Trooper is an anime from the '80s about a group of cute boys who battle robots.



Botaname, page 45

Botaname is a popular candy. Each piece is wrapped in edible rice paper, which resembles cellophane plastic wrap.

Kaiou-sama, page 46

Kaiou-sama is a character from *Dragon Ball*. In order to train under him, you have to crack a joke and make him laugh.

Johnny's talent agency, page 46

A top talent agency that specializes in male idols and boy bands. Mitsuko Mori is a famous actress in her eighties to whose events the agency sends its talent. In return, she involves them in her many TV and theatrical productions.

Electronic toll collection system, page 46

This system allows you to pay for freeway tolls without stopping. Credit is automatically deducted from your card when you pass a sensor that's built into the toll gate.

India, page 46

This refers to the Soccer Asia Cup that took place in Bangalore, India. The soccer field was in terrible condition, and there were several blackouts during the match. At one point the game was interrupted by a dog running onto the field.

U-21, page 46

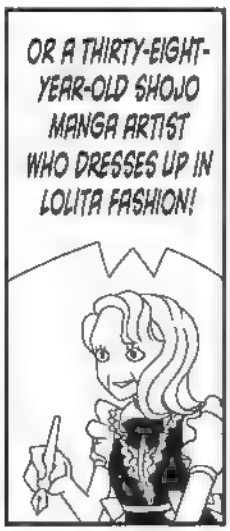
U-21 stands for "under 21," and is a soccer championship made up of players who are twenty-one and younger. Souta Hirayama was criticized for blowing kisses to the audience after scoring a goal against China.

Eraserhead, page 48

This is a common school prank in which kids place a chalkboard eraser above the classroom doorway so that it falls onto the teacher's head as he opens the door.

Nightmare, page 53

A glam band popular among teenagers.



Lolita fashion, page 54

Shojo manga artist Mayu Shinjou sometimes appears on TV wearing Lolita outfits.

Smoking, page 56

Teen idol Ai Kago was suspended by her talent agency after being caught smoking.

Golf, page 56

This is a reference to Kazuki Enari, a former child actor and golf enthusiast.

***Kansetsu* bath,** page 58

The *kansetsu* kiss is commonly seen in shonen manga. *Kansetsu* means passive or indirect, and a *kansetsu* kiss happens when you place your own lips on something that was previously touched by someone else's lips. For example, if a girl drank a sip of cola from a can and then a boy drank from the same can, that would be a *kansetsu* kiss. In this case, Usui is enjoying a *kansetsu* bath by bathing with Abiru's dad.

X Japan, page 59

X Japan is a metal band that was popular in the '80s and '90s, and which recently reunited.

Junichi Ishida, page 59

Fifty-six-year-old actor Junichi Ishida is known for dating younger women.

"Older" younger sister, page 59

This is a reference to singer Aya Matsuura. During a radio show, she once claimed to be in her teens, but she later said that her younger sister had just turned twenty.

Kikuko Inoue, page 59

Kikuko Inoue claims that she will be seventeen forever.

Miki Imai, page 63

Miki Imai is a singer known for singing love songs from a woman's perspective.

Wonder Valley Yuubari, page 68

This is a tourist spot in Yuubari, Hokkaido, that local residents are continually trying to shut down.

Dog Park, page 68

A theme park in Hiroshima that was shut down.

Shogo Hamada, page 72

A popular Japanese singer.

Theme song, page 72

Japanese electronics shops and other megastores often have catchy theme songs that play in a constant loop.

"Tooryanse," page 72

"Tooryanse" is an old Japanese folk song. It plays at crosswalks when the light turns green in order to let blind pedestrians know that it is safe to cross.

I WONDER IF HE GOT INFECTED WHILE HE WAS IN HOLLYWOOD.
SPEAKING OF MOVIES...DON'T YOU THINK KEN WATANABE'S BEEN ACTING LIKE AN AMERICAN THESE DAYS?

Ken Watanabe, page 73

A Japanese actor who has starred in several Hollywood movies, such as *The Last Samurai* and *Batman Begins*.

The NHK scandal, page 75

NHK is Japan's public TV and radio network. In 2004, an NHK producer was found to be spending funds inappropriately. Several similar scandals soon followed, and people began refusing to pay their public television dues.

Dish soap Multilevel Marketing, page 75

This is a reference to Amway.

Denentoshi Line, page 75

A train line that runs through several fashionable, well-to-do neighborhoods.

"It's really nothing special, but..." page 85

When Japanese people give gifts, they use this expression as a way of showing humility.

Bonus tracks, page 86

Japanese CDs often contain instrumental versions of the most popular songs on the album, which can be used for karaoke practice.

Onigiri rice ball figures, page 86

Onigiri rice ball figures were given away to people who pre-ordered DVDs of the film *Spirited Away*.

Used Underwear, page 86

The Kanou sisters are a pair of celebrities known for their extravagant behavior. Apparently, a fragment of underwear was given away to people who purchased their photo collection.

"Most Popular Catchphrase of the Year" award, page 86

Comedians who win this award tend to be forgotten soon after.

Animism, page 86

Animism is the belief that everything, animate or inanimate, has a soul. The Japanese Shinto religion is often categorized as an animistic practice.

Ken ****i, page 89

This refers to singer Ken Hirai.

Sugoroku, page 97

Sugoroku is a Japanese board game of which there are two versions. One is similar to backgammon; the other resembles Chutes and Ladders. Sugoroku is often played on New Year's.

Hanetsuki, page 97

Hanetsuki is a traditional Japanese ball game that is played by girls on New Year's. Players use wooden paddles to hit a feathered birdie back and forth, much like badminton.

Fukuwarai, page 97

A traditional Japanese New Year's game in which blindfolded players must stick eyes, nose, and mouth on a blank face. It's sort of like Pin the Tail on the Donkey...but without the donkey...or the tail.

Koutaro Koizumi, page 99

Koutaro Koizumi is an actor and the son of former prime minister Koizumi.

Free unlimited texting and calls, page 103

This is a reference to a misleading ad placed in newspapers by a major Japanese cell carrier.

Bank service charge, page 103

Refers to banks offering interest-bearing accounts on which the percentage paid was so low that the service charges for maintaining the account cost more than the interest paid out.

Largest market cap, page 103

A former Livedoor CEO claimed their goal was for the company to have the largest market cap in the world. Not long after those words were uttered, the stock crashed.

No signs of bullying, page 103

After school bullying incidents and subsequent suicides, school officials and school board members often issue denials like this.

The three Kameda brothers, page 103

The Kameda brothers are boxers who got in trouble for fixing fights.

It's me, page 105

This is a reference to a scam targeting senile, elderly victims. A man calls the victim and poses as a relative by saying, "It's me. It's me." The caller claims to be in trouble and then begs the victim to transfer money into their account.

Happy Coming of Age Day, page 114

The Seijinshiki holiday, or Coming of Age Day, falls on the second Monday of January.
The day celebrates those who have turned twenty in the past year.

Ozeki, page 116

In 1992, at the age of twenty-six, Japanese rocker Yutaka Ozeki was found dead.

Toujinbou, page 120

Toujinbou is the name of a cliff in Fukui prefecture that is also a famous suicide spot.

Kabukicho, page 127

Kabukicho is Tokyo's famous red light district. Certain bars in the area are notorious for extorting money from unsuspecting clientele.

Club on campus, page 127

Some cult groups use on-campus clubs to recruit new members.

Barbecue sauce, page 127

This is a reference to a hiker who was once stranded in the mountains for twenty-four days with only barbecue sauce and water.

World Cup, page 127

During the World Cup in 2006, Japanese player Atsushi Yanagisawa missed a shot even though he was standing right in front of the goal. When asked what happened, he responded, "Suddenly the ball was coming right at me...I was caught off guard."

"My wife is gonna cheat on me tonight," page 127

A man posted this phrase on an Internet message board. Many people responded with advice and comments and the posts were subsequently made into a book and later a TV drama.

Mariko Ishihara, page 127

Ishihara recently published a tell-all book about her life, revealing the names of several celebrities that she dated.

Singers wearing risqué outfits, page 127

This is a reference to an NHK New Year's show, which features popular musicians. In the past, some performers have taken advantage of the fact that the show is filmed live and have worn risqué outfits that they didn't wear in rehearsal.

Shinzo Abe, page 134

Shinzo Abe is a former prime minister of Japan.

"Book of Awkward Phrases," page 134

This refers to a book released in Japan entitled *Bush's Awkward Phrases*.

Competition-free concert, page 144

The sign reading "Tatu Concert" refers to the Russian girl band t.A.T.u., who cancelled their first Japanese concert on very short notice.

2006 Goo,** page 144

This is likely a reference to "Goreo," the mascot of the 2006 Soccer World Cup held in Germany.

Rangers from *Secret S*dron Five*,** page 144

*Secret S***dron Five Rangers*, or *Himitsu Senta Gorenja* in Japanese, was the original *Power Rangers* show and aired in the mid-'70s. The show started with only three rangers; two were added later.

2005 F1 U.S. Grand Prix, page 145

Only six of twenty competitors actually raced in this event. Most racers bowed out after the track was determined to be unsafe.

Gia*ts, page 145

In recent years, ratings for Yomiuri Giants games have been abysmally low.

JA*RAC, page 145

JASRAC is the Japanese Society for Rights of Authors, Composers, and Publishers.

Competitive park, page 148

Many of Japan's urban parks have become homeless encampments.